Dudley
CHRONICLE

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WALKERS PUT BEST FOOT FORWARD FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Don Goodman, MC Dicky Dodd and Steve Bull with walkers

FROM super heroes to aliens – hundreds of walkers dressed up as they put their best foot forward to raise tens of thousands of pounds for charity in a walk across the Black Country.

Around 800 people braved changeable weather to walk from Himley to Wolverhampton in aid of Promise Dreams.

Rain poured on Sunday morning as organisers gathered at Himley Hall to set up for the nine-mile Promise Dreams walk but the sun shone just before walkers set off for Wolverhampton Racecourse.

Many of those gathered at the start line said they had been helped by the charity or knew what a positive difference it could make to seriously ill children's lives.

Former Wolves stars Don Goodman and Steve Bull have been long-standing patrons for Promise Dreams and saw the walkers off.

Don said: "It's the most amazing charity in the world. That is why I got involved and why I do anything to help these fundraisers.

Cried

"They turn out every year and you see a lot of the same faces and we are eternally grateful."

Steve added: "I know lots of people here. I have been to their houses, I have been to their schools. I know the kids. I have had laughter and jokes and I have cried too."

Walkers included Zoe Harvey, 24, and Beth Hayden, 19, from Tipton. The nursery nurses, who dressed up as Batman and Robin, last completed the walk in 2014 after a girl they looked after at Lola-Belle's Day Nursery in Tipton died from cancer but was helped by the charity.

Colleague Lisa Hickman, 29, dressed up as Wonder Woman and former colleague Emma Cox, 24, joined in the fun as Superwoman.

The charity's co-founder Suresh Bawa, 50, said he hoped over £20,000 would be donated from the event.

This week he, his son Arran and three others are climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of Promise Dreams, having already collected £50,000.

Borough rocked by three stabbings in eight days

DON'T LIVE IN FEAR, SAYS CHIEF

A POLICE chief in Dudley has urged residents not to live in fear as a killer went on the run after the borough was hit by three stabbings in just eight days.

A 24-year-old man died from stab wounds after being knifed on Brierley Hill High Street on Saturday. A murder probe has been launched with police still trying to trace the attacker as The Chronicle went to Press. Superintendent Phil Dolby told residents: "My message to the public is that I don't want anybody to be in fear of living in the great borough of Dudley.

"It is a genuine pleasure to work in Dudley and if people feel afraid then it's our job to help make them feel safe."

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said the community needs to work together to help track down the culprits.

"This is absolutely shocking – particularly with it being in broad daylight and in the town centre. It's the third stabbing in Dudley in the space of a couple of weeks and obviously everyone needs to do everything they can to support the police.

Lowest

"We all hope that they can catch the people responsible and help to make our towns safer. This is just something that you don't expect in Dudley, which is well known for having the lowest crime in the West Midlands and very little violent crime.

"So when you have a murder in broad daylight in one of our busy town centres it is awful. People need to know that they are going to be caught and once they're caught and convicted then they're going to spend a long time in prison."

The incident happened in Brierley Hill High Street on Saturday at 4.45pm. The victim was wounded in the stomach outside the Dixi Chicken takeaway before staggering inside the busy diner pleading for help.

Report by David Cosgrove

He fainted and was taken to hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Police sealed off the High Street and a nearby wooded area as forensics experts combed the areas looking for evidence.

A police tent was erected at the scene of the crime and the road was blocked off.

Ahmad Sherzad, of Dixi Chicken, helped the bloodied victim after he stumbled into his shop and called the emergency services.

He said: "It was a terrible day. But we're just trying to get on with things as normal now."

Officers have been providing support for the victim's family.

The horrifying incident comes after two non-fatal stabbings in Dudley the previous weekend – one in Lower Gornal and another in Sedgley.

Detective Inspector Jim Munro said he believed the latest attack was 'targeted' and he called on witnesses to come forward.

He said: "We have spoken to some witnesses already but I'm sure there are many more people who saw what happened."

A police tent erected at the scene of the fatal stabbing in Brierley Hill's High Street on Saturday

DEVELOPMENT

£27m rail innovation hub gets green light

THE green light has been given for a multi-million pound 'very light rail' innovation centre in Dudley.

Outline plans for the £27.8 million complex at Castle Hill were approved at a meeting of Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday.

The innovation centre would be for the design and construction of lightweight rail vehicles, with research and development laboratories, as well as facilities for general manufacturing, conferences, teaching and training.

Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021.

RETAIL

Kristian leaps in to open Aldi store

OLYMPIC Gymnast Kristian Thomas will officially open the new Aldi store on Priory Road today (Thursday).

Hundreds were anticipated at the Dudley store's unveiling at 8am.

The London 2012 bronze medallist, from Wolverhampton, who trains at Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen, was due to greet shoppers.

The first 100 customers in the queue will have the opportunity to win prizes including TVs, smartphones and groceries.

COURT

14-year-old denies stabbing man, 18

A 14-year-old boy has denied stabbing a man in Sedgley High Street.

The youngster, who cannot be named, appeared before a District Judge at Wolverhampton Youth Court. He entered a not guilty plea to a single charge of wounding with intent relating to the incident on Sunday, October 9.

The case was adjourned until tomorrow (Friday) at Wolverhampton Crown Court. The boy was remanded in youth detention.

The 18-year-old victim was found with a stab wound to his stomach. He is recovering in hospital.

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JUSTIN TIME – IT'S BEIBER

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Manhunt for paedophile religious leader

Hafiz Rahman – on the run

THE hunt for an Imam who indecently assaulted two young girls at his mosque has been passed by police to the Secretary of State after he fled to Bangladesh.

Police have released a picture of Hafiz Rahman, from Netherton, who boarded a flight to Bangladesh on Saturday, October 8, after claiming to be too ill to attend Wolverhampton Crown Court the day before, where he was found guilty of five charges of indecent assault involving two girls.

The Foreign Office will work with police in Bangladesh to track down the father-of-seven and extradite to Britain to face justice. Rahman had been the Imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath when the assaults took place in the 1980s.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "The court did not issue any warrant for Mr Rahman to be arrested or remanded following the guilty verdict and he was due to be summonsed for sentencing this week. Officers visited him at home that evening to ensure he was complying with the previously imposed bail conditions of residing at the specified address, which he was.

"An 'all ports warning' information report was placed onto the Police National Computer advising that officers should be notified if he made any attempt to leave the country."

Rahman, 58, of Ballard Road, was found guilty of five out of seven charges of indecent assault. He was cleared of the other two He will be sentenced on November 3, either in person or in his absence.

The court heard how he assaulted two girls at the mosque between March 1986 and August 1987. The victims, aged under 10 at the time, had gone to the mosque for religious studies.

Schemes helping elderly stay independent axed

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has pulled the plug on funding for 16 supported living schemes across the borough – saving a total of £263,000.

The cost-cutting plans mean hundreds of elderly residents will now have to fork out extra money for the service.

This is the latest in a swathe of cost-saving measures by the borough council, which leaders say faces unprecedented austerity following Government funding cuts.

Other cuts identified across Dudley include reducing or ending funding for grass cutting services, transport to day centres and school lollipop wardens.

Opposition leaders have criticised the cost-saving measures for targetting front line services and the wrong areas.

The supported living scheme helps elderly people to live at home independently and funds a scheme manager to assist then to carry out daily tasks and chores. Among the schemes affected are those run by housing provider Stonewater, which has four housing schemes across Dudley.

Dudley Council will save £53,000 by making cuts to those four schemes alone. This will affect 167 residents.

Moving

Cutting the funding supported living at Herald Court alone will give the council a saving of £10,518.95, affecting 33 residents. Residents will have to pay £9.38 per week to Stonewater for the service.

Councillor Qada Zada, cabinet member for adult social care, said it was a difficult decision. "This is very much in line with charging for support offered by supported living schemes nationally, which now charge residents for the additional support they provide as and when they need it." he added.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of UKIP in Dudley, said: "The whole point of the service is to help people live independently and is much cheaper than people living in care homes. Front line services and the wrong people are being targeted."

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said the council should look at reducing the annual £11m bill for Information Technology and Human Resources.

Inca is bearing up well for her age

Dudley Zoo's Inca had checks of her eyes, ears, nose, mouth, teeth, pads, feet and claws, as well as blood tests

AT 36 years of age she's Europe's oldest black bear and she's doing better than ever after passing her latest health check at Dudley Zoo.

Inca, an Asiatic black bear, flew through her yearly medical with zoo vets Peter and Elizabeth Steward. Inca, who was sedated in her den at Castle Hill for the 40-minute medical, had checks of her eyes, ears, nose, mouth, teeth, pads, feet and claws, as well as routine blood tests. The much-loved bear also had her nails trimmed.

Senior keeper Sam Grove, who assisted the vets alongside senior keeper Sarah Evans, said: "Inca continues to astound us all year-on-year and this time the vet also said he thought her teeth were in a better condition.

"She's doing amazingly well for a bear of her age and has exceeded the life span of a wild Asiatic by over a decade.

"She's definitely slowed down a lot these days and does spend quite a while asleep in her den, or snoozing out on her platform, but who can blame her at her age.

"As the title holder of the oldest black bear in Europe we're delighted to have her live out her twilight days at DZG."

The Asiatic black bear can be found living in the Himalayas, Russia, Japan, Taiwan, China and the northern parts of the Indian sub continent. They are considered vulnerable in the wild due to deforestation and the species being poached for body parts.

Safety alert after chlorine leak from plating unit

CHLORINE gas was found leaking from a cylinder at a Black Country firm, sparking an alert for neighbours to stay indoors, keeping windows and doors shut.

The leak happened at Cradley Plating Company unit on Woods Lane, Cradley Heath on Saturday.

Neighbours were advised to stay at home and keep their windows and doors closed as investigations were carried out.

Haden Cross firefighters attended, including a special team.

They found that there was one cylinder in 'a corroded state' which was leaking chlorine gas. That was close to three others in a similar state.

Firefighters were alerted to the leak at about 6.19pm on Saturday and remained there until 1.30am on Sunday, along with police officers, and carried out extensive tests to ensure the chemical leak had been contained.

No one was injured and the spokesman said much of the time was spent making the location safe.

The emergency services were called to the scene after a member of the public reported 'a bleachy smell' in the air.

Cradley Plating Company staff were also told by firefighters not to enter the building as investigations took place and experts were called to give advice .

One of the Cradley Heath and Old Hill councillors sitting on Sandwell Council, Councillor Caroline White, said that it had been 'worrying' for residents living nearby. Chlorine leaks can cause serious health scares and problems.

In April 2009, nearly 48 people were taken to hospital after an incident at the now demolished Coseley Baths.

Football match attack is denied

A MAN has denied wounding another in an attack during a children's football match.

Nahad Yafai, of Parkside Road, Colley Gate, Halesowen, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court where he pleaded not guilty to a charge of wounding with intent.

The incident allegedly happened during an under-14s game between Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Harriers at Newfield Park, in Whittingham Road, Halesowen, on March 20.

The 53-year-old defendant was granted conditional bail until his trial, which is still pending a start date.

Ukulele concert for Macmillan support

A SEDGLEY concert of ukulele and a cappella world music will raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Jookulele Band and Rough Diamonds are at All Saints Church, Vicar Street, on November 12 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 on 01902 882022.

Big Four-O fireworks extravaganza at Himley

HIMLEY Bonfire and Fireworks is celebrating with The Big Four-O, an extra special pyrotechnical extravaganza to celebrate the 40th Dudley fireworks display on Saturday, November 5.

Gates will open at 4.30pm with the bonfire lit at 7.45 and the fireworks display at 8.30 at the event which will also feature a big funfair and seasonal refreshments.

Set to a soundtrack of party music, the fireworks show will be hosted by Heart fm and Dudley Council. Tickets cost £9 for adults, £4.50 for children (five to 15) and for senior citizens with under-5s admitted free.

A family ticket for two adults and two children costs £23 and there is a £3 parking fee. Card payments are not accepted on the night but advance tickets can be bought on (01384) 812812 or online via the Dudley Council website.

Bus

A free bus service will be available from Dudley town centre, Coseley, Sedgley, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Stourbridge. Full details on the council's website.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "Himley Hall and Park is host to one of the biggest firework shows in the country."

Thousands are anticipated for the event which attracts families from all over the Black Country, South Staffordshire and beyond.

Move for four new classrooms

A SECONDARY school in Dudley could expand with the addition of four new classrooms.

Plans have been submitted by Ellowes Hall Sports College in Lower Gornal for an extension to its site in Stickley Lane.

School chiefs hope to revamp and extend its science block, adding four new classrooms and refurbishing or relocating six other classrooms.

A design and access statement to planners says: "The school is currently four classrooms under the recommended amount of science classrooms.

"This project brings the total about of classrooms to 10 and in line with the recommendations for total classrooms and room sizes."

Make-up artist wins fashion prize

A BLACK Country make-up artist was among the winners in the annual Midlands Fashion Awards.

Chelsea Moore, from Dudley, was named make-up artist of the year at the awards night held in Birmingham.

Concern as no organs donated for a year

A CONSULTANT has said it is disappointing how few organ donations have taken place at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

For the first time in seven years, in the year up until March 31, 2016 there were no organ donations in Dudley.

Presenting these figures to the Trust's board, clinical lead for organ donation and intensive care consultant Dr Julian Sonksen said: "In terms of donors and patients transplanted as a result of organ treatment from our hospital, unfortunately for the first time in seven years there haven't been any made here."

Speaking following the meeting, Dr Sonksen added that while there were no donations in the last financial year, since April five organs have been donated from two patients.

He said that the size of Russells Hall Hospital meant that the annual donation rate was typically in single figures.

He said: "Donations are rare at our a hospital of our size. On average we only see between one to four donations in a year."But there has been an increase in the number of people on the organ donation register in Dudley borough. At the end of the year March 31 2016 there was 72,357 people on the list compared with 57,135 by March 31 2012.

Dr Sonksen is optimistic after seeing an increase in the number of those on the organ donation register in the Dudley borough.

One of the issues concerns the number of staff trained in this particular field. According to Dr Sonksen there are currently only two who cover the Black Country, based at New Cross Hospital, although a third is also currently undergoing training.

"We are in talks to make sure that a specialist nurse has a presence on our site for at least part of the week," he said. Currently they don't have a named nurse on site for organ donations.

Previous steps taken by the Trust to try to increase organ donations, and raise awareness of those who have made that life-saving bequest, include 'The Gift of Life' sculpture unveiled at the hospital in 2014. The Trust is working with ethnic minority groups to raise awareness.

£20m temporary staff bill at hospital trust

MORE than £20 million was spent on temporary staff by the health trust which runs Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in just one year.

The outlay covered nurses, health professionals and administration workers who were brought in to the Dudley Group NHS Foundation on a short-term basis during 2015.

The figures range from January to December 2015 to December and were revealed after a Freedom of Information request.

Out of the £20.518m that was spent on the temporary staffing around 18 per cent of that was for agency nursing, with 0.5 per cent of that on unqualified nurses.

Just more than four per cent of the spend was on agency administration staff and 5.8 per cent on agency allied health professionals, who range from physiotherapists to occupational therapists and district nurses.

UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood spoke of his disgust at the spend. He said: "It is totally unacceptable and alarming.

"The bottom line is we cannot afford this. If we look at the debts of the NHS then its been far too long that we have been selling off our public services. We need to keep the NHS going strong and take care of our front line services."

In June this year bosses said they were reviewing the positions of temporary staff, those on fixed-term contracts, and bank and agency workers.

Safety

Dr Paul Harrison, acting chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are committed to ensuring all our patients receive the best possible care and so patient safety is always an absolute priority.

"We always try and cover vacant shifts first from our own staff bank before employing agency staff, but we make no apologies for making sure our services are safe.

"To make sure patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times, we use agency staff to cover staff shortages.

"The main reason for agency spend is the high number of unfilled vacancies due the national shortage of many health professionals including registered nurses and allied health professionals such as speech and language therapists and radiographers. Our use of agency staff will obviously reduce once we are able to fill these posts."

Dog walk ban is 'undemocratic'

Dog walkers show their opinion of the ban which is continuing in parts of the grounds at Himley Hall and Park

THE temporary dog ban at Himley Park has been branded 'undemocratic' by opposition councillors.

Dudley Council is expected to unveil the results of a six-month trial and subsequent survey over banning dogs from part of the historic site in the coming weeks. But Conservative councillors say imposing the ban before any public discussion took place was wrong.

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath councillor Nicola Richards said: "It's ridiculous that a ban has been put into place before consultation had started. The whole process so far has been undemocratic. It is unfair."

Councillor Ed Lawrence said "I would perhaps understand the motivation for this decision if we were shown statistics of incidents with dogs at the park. They refuse to give us any evidence and reject any alternatives we offer."

The dog-free zone covers the park's main entrance to the West Gate, running alongside the Himley Road.

The rest of the park is still available for dog owners to walk their pets.

The six-month trial came into force in February and was due to end its run in August but bosses say the temporary ban will continue as a trial ban did not need to go through the formal procedures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free parking to boost shopping

FREE parking will be available on council-run car parks across Dudley borough on Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas.

Council bosses hope the offer will increase the amount of people heading into the borough's main shopping areas when charges are suspended on December 10, 17 and 24.

Dudley Council also said it intends to offer free parking on one late shopping night, though it is yet to decide which night.

Chiefs reckon it will boost trade across the borough.

Star guests visit for festive reunion

TELEVISION presenters Suzi Perry and Adrian Chiles are due to attend the next performance by Red Lemon Electric Blues Band in their home town of Stourbridge.

The group reunited for sell-out 30th anniversary concerts last year. The band will appear in Stourbridge Town Hall again on December 16 with tickets priced £22. Suzi, whose father Tony managed the band, used to dance on stage with the group in the 1980s and Adrian, from Hagley, was a bass player in the soul band's early days. Call 0870 320 7000 for tickets.

Join museum hunt for creepy critters

YOUNGSTERS are invited to go on a hunt for rats and spiders as part of a special event at the Black Country Living Museum.

The Creepy Critters event is from Saturday to October 30 at the museum on Tipton Road, Dudley. Fearless youngsters will be able to explore and learn about the pests that plagued the Black Country in the old days, and get hands on with some crafts.

See www.bclm.co.uk/events/creepy-critters for more information.

Little Mix make a date for concert next year

TOP girl group Little Mix have announced an arena tour including a Birmingham gig in just over a year's time.

The group consisting of Perrie Edwards, Jessy Nelson, Leigh-Anne Pinnock and Jade Thirwall bring their Glory Days tour to the Genting Arena on November 18, 2017,for matinee and evening shows.

Tickets go on general sale tomorrow (Friday) from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 3388 222.

Campaigner's award

A CAMPAIGNER from Stourbridge has been recognised for his contribution to charity. Bryan Gould, 56, was honoured at Muscular Dystrophy UK's annual President's Awards, where he was named campaigner of the year by the charity's president, BBC TV presenter Sue Barker.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

MEMO to all those bad losers in the Commons complaining that MPs must be given a vote on Brexit. You've already cast your vote. You had it on June 23, just like the rest of us.

WHERE fat comes from. Fancying a snack on the motorway, I bought a BLT sandwich in a service station. The print on the wrapper boasted about the crisp lettuce and vine-ripened tomatoes. The small print revealed it contained 770 calories – equivalent to nearly three Mars Bars.

FOUR bearded Asian men were thrown off a flight from Manchester to Turkey after allegedly being disruptive and playing an audio track containing the repeated word "bomb." The key word here is "allegedly". Some Thomas Cook flight staff say it was some of the worst behaviour they had ever seen and upset some passengers. But the men, aged 18-23, only admit to being "a bit loud" and having "a laugh and a joke." And that's it – claim, counter-claim and accusations of racism chucked about. In the 21st century there should be not an ounce of doubt. How much would it cost to equip every airliner with CCTV? If police and prison officers wear body cameras, why not flight attendants? It's hardly rocket science to record the incident, transmit it to police at the arrival airport and have the magistrates waiting for when the "bit loud" passengers land. This way, gentlemen . . .

IN a matter of hours the internet can create a fad that would have taken months to organise in the old days. The latest is the scourge of "scary clowns," terrorising people all over Britain in the run-up to Halloween. Before that it was the ice-bucket challenge. Come to think of it, a bucketful of iced water on a chilly October evening might be the perfect way to deal with scary clowns.

IN their defence, at least the scary clowns are succeeding at being scary. This is in contrast to real clowns who repeatedly fail to be amusing. When did you last see a funny clown? How many nights at the circus are ruined when a succession of dazzlingly athletic and dangerous acts is suddenly interrupted by half-a-dozen linguistically-challenged and deeply unfunny old men with fake buckets of water and an exploding car?

REPORTS claim that the loss of two black contestants from Strictly has "prompted accusations of racism on social media," It is bizarre how that phrase "on social media" gives some sort of authenticity to a story. In this age of brainless instant communication with no qualifications required and anonymous Tweeters, we should try replacing the words "on social media" with "by a bunch of nobodies."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Masked raiders target petrol station

THREE masked men armed with claw hammers raided a petrol station in the Black Country.

The raiders burst into the BP petrol station on Pedmore Road in Lye and demanded cash from a woman working alone behind the counter. However, the men fled when the safe couldn't be opened.

Police are now investigating the raid which happened at around 9pm last Sunday (October 9) and have asked witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101.

Balaclavas

Police spokeswoman Sharn Braich said: "Three men armed with claw hammers and wearing balaclavas stormed the petrol station and demanded cash from the woman behind the counter"

Lye and Stourbridge North Councillor Mohammed Hanif said: "I think it is awful to hear that anything like this has taken place. We hope the police can bring these people to justice."

Last month armed raiders targeted two stores in Stourbridge stealing cash and hijacking a Ford Mondeo, leaving customers and staff terrified. The robbers made off with car whilst two women, aged 88 and 37, where still sitting in the back. They were left further up the roadside.

A man was arrested in connection with that incident and bailed pending further enquiries.

Those robberies took place on September 4 at the One Stop store, on Hungary Hill, and at the Co-op in Glebe Lane, Norton.

£800-a-day council temp has been replaced

By David Cosgrove

AN £800-a-day temporary officer at Dudley Council is leaving her post after just over 18 months in the job.

Merlin Joseph's appointment in the council's children's services department last year sparked controversy with opposition councillors questioning her high salary in a temporary role.

Now, after more 18 months in the job, she is set to be replaced by a permanent appointment. Lambeth Council's interim assistant director for children's services Sue Butcher is taking over the role. Newcomer Ms Butcher is being paid £90,000 a year, around £80,000 less per year than Ms Joseph's agency salary.

Ms Joseph started in the post in April 2015 and council chiefs said they have been looking to appoint a permanent replacement since then.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "These have been some of the most difficult times for this authority and we are extremely lucky to have had Merlin Joseph's expertise in this field to help us through those challenges. Children's services are in a much better place thanks to her hard work.

Pleased

"We have always made it clear that we would be looking for someone to take up that vital permanent role as soon as reasonably possible and we are pleased to have appointed Sue Butcher. Sue will be working closely with the leadership team at the council to make sure we continue the positive direction highlighted in the post-Ofsted report from the Government-appointed national commissioner, which said the authority was now 'focused, ambitious and creative'."

A report in July found that progress was being made in Dudley's children's services department. Government commissioner Eleanor Brazil said the authority had taken steps to improve since being rated inadequate by Ofsted.

Student celebrates learning award

Sarah Allington, of Kingswinford, won the Central England Learning for Work award at the Festival of Learning

A STUDENT left partially paralysed due to an industrial accident has scooped a prestigious award for her outstanding achievement in adult learning.

Sarah Allington, 26, of Kingswinford, won the Central England Learning for Work award at this year's Festival of Learning.

Organised by the Learning & Work Institute, the festival showcases and celebrates the impact that learning can have on individuals, families, communities and employers.

Sarah suffered a life-changing injury following an industrial accident in 2011, the details of which she prefers to keep private.

The accident left her in constant pain and she had to leave her job. Looking for something creative to help with her recovery, she joined a silver jewellery making class run by Adult Education Wolverhampton.

Since then, Sarah has developed the skills and confidence to start up her own successful creative business, Sarah Ellen Designs, producing handmade silver jewellery and greetings cards.

She said: "Without the support of Adult Education Wolverhampton, it's unlikely I would be where I am or who I am today."

Sarah was one of 28 inspirational regional and national winners selected for a range of awards across the four categories, including awards for individual learners, employers, innovative projects and inspirational tutors.

Burglar is traced by jumper at crime scene

A ROMANIAN who burgled an elderly couple's bungalow while they slept claimed he was talked into it by a friend.

Adrian Lacatus and at least one other burglar broke into the pensioners' Stourbridge home in the early hours of February 10. They stole items including an iPhone, a Samsung mobile and a sat-nav before fleeing after being disturbed by the husband.

The 24-year-old admitted the burglary after a jumper he left at the bungalow was recovered by police who were able to match it with his DNA.

Mr Jamie Scott, defending, said: "In interview my client states the offence was his friend's idea. Mr Lacatus was drunk at the time and, while that should be quite properly treated as an aggravating feature, the fact he was drunk supported his suggestion that his friend took the lead and perhaps took advantage of him.

"It is supported further by the fact that the goods taken were retained entirely by my client's friend, who very shortly afterwards returned to Romania. My client drew absolutely no benefit from this offence at all."

The court heard how the couple – aged 70 and 69 – had been asleep when the burglars entered through a kitchen window at around 2am.

Lacatus, of High Street, Lye, was arrested in July. Last week he was jailed for 28 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

A victim statement said the couple had suffered physical and mental distress in addition to financial loss.

Five Guys burgers come to Merry Hill

A NEW fast food restaurant is set to open in the Merry Hill shopping centre, creating 35 jobs.

The Five Guys burger chain will open at the centre on December 5.

A spokesman for centre bosses intu said: "There's a lot going on at the centre and our plans mean that we have a number of exciting new brands currently in negotiations to take their first stores at intu Merry Hill, whilst others are looking at their existing stores to make sure they are making the most of their presence in the centre."

Five Guys is the fastest growing restaurant chain in the UK.

In March this year it became the UK's favourite fast food chain, according to research by Market Force – knocking Nando's off the top spot.

Festive lights to be switched on in village

TRADERS and businesses in Kinver are hosting a late night shopping event as part of the countdown to Christmas. The village will hold the festive curtain-raiser on November 25 with shops open until 9pm after the Christmas lights switch-on at 7pm.

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Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Dudley & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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Pub landlady stole cash and stock

A CROOKED landlady swindled the Stourbridge pub where she worked out of more than £18,000 of cash and stock.

Charlotte Maley, aged 27, was in charge at The Cross pub in Oldswinford when stock went missing and she failed to bank the cash.

When owners Marston's first questioned her over the missing money she tried to blame another member of staff and said a problem with some of the beer had meant it could not be sold.

After more cash and stock went missing, Maley, of High Street, Lye, admitted two counts of theft. Marston's terminated her contract after finding a total stock loss of £13,025 and cash loss of £5,442 from the pub at Glasshouse Hill in Oldswinford.

Prosecutor Oliver Woolhouse told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "She and Marston's had a slightly unusual agreement in that she was required to pay a £5,000 deposit up front, and from then on she would be paid 20 per cent of the profits the pub made, and she would bank the remaining money to Marston's.

"Between May 7 and 15 last year, she failed to bank takings and there was money missing. She said a member of staff had stolen £2,000 but was going to repay it. No action was taken at that stage and Marston's agreed to let her repay the money.

"On June 8 last year, it was found the pub was £1,500 down in stock with £709 being draught beers. Marston's questioned the discrepancies in missing stock and she told them it was a cellar issue."

Examinations of the cellar were made and no problems were detected.

"She still wasn't banking the money for Marston's and the area manager terminated her contract. It was later found that a considerable amount of stock was missing."

Samantha Powis, defending Maley, said she had not spent the money on a lavish lifestyle. "It was the first time she had been a landlady and she had been left to her own devices. It is fair to say that she felt she was left to fend for herself and didn't fully understand what she was doing."

Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey gave her a 10-month jail term, suspended for two years. Plus 175 hours community service and 30-day rehabilitation.

Activity base for elderly closing as funding cut

A POPULAR activity centre for the elderly will close its doors at the end of December due to lack of funding, it has been announced.

The Age UK Springboard activity centre based at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, had £300,000 of its funding cut by Dudley Council in July.

Now up to 700 clients will lose access to a vast variety of activities including exercise classes, ballroom dancing, arts and crafts and photography.

Devastated staff say that the closure was 'unavoidable' and that they are 'concerned' for their huge client base who visit and benefit from the project's activities each week.

Alison Pugh, acting Springboard coordinator, said: "It is with great sadness that Springboard, a much loved service has to close.

"Springboard has made a huge positive impact on people's health and wellbeing in Dudley borough in its various forms since 2003.

"The time, commitment and dedication involved to build this success story should not be underestimated and sadly the closure will affect a lot of older people resident in the borough."

Lottery

The centre had received funding from The National Lottery for the past six years but had also its latest application refused earlier this year.

The centre has 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers who run various health and wellbeing activities for those aged 50 to 100.

Councillor Zafar Islam, who represents Brierley Hill ward, said: "Sadly it has been a situation where an extensive consultation took place with Age UK and now some people will lose out and be disadvantaged by this decision.

"It's a question of trying to save front line services and consolidate where we can. But I believe that considerable talks took place over this. The centre has served more than just the ward. It is a shame."

A Springboard client from Stourbridge, who did not wish to be named, said: "Since the death of my husband I have felt so lonely, Springboard has encouraged me to get my life back together. I will be so sad to see the centre close".

The last event will be a Christmas party at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill, on December 7.

Queen is most amused by Sir Lenny

The Queen greets Sir Lenny Henry as David Walliams and his mother Kathleen look on at the Royal Academy

SIR Lenny Henry chatted with The Queen and showbiz royalty at a special ceremony celebrating titans of the visual arts and architecture.

The Dudley-born comedian was flanked by comedian, actor and author David Walliams, actor Richard E Grant and the newly-knighted rock star Sir Rod Stewart for the royal appointment event at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

Sir Lenny was a guest at the event which also saw awards given to some of the country's top architects.

Her Majesty gave a wide smile as she shook the comedian's hand. The Queen stopped to speak to Sir Lenny, after he mischievously held his hands outstretched as Walliams, Sir Rod and his wife, the former model Penny Lancaster, laughed.

The comic, who was dressed in a grey suit, was keen to capture the moment of his visit to the Academy, posing as Downton Abbey's Richard E Grant took his picture.

Sir Lenny's meeting with the Queen came less than a year after he was knighted at Windsor Castle.

As patron of the Royal Academy, Her Majesty was giving the awards in recognition of the recipients decades-long work in their respective artistic fields.

Society again launch fund to support communities

DUDLEY Building Society is launching its Community Support Fund this month for the third consecutive year.

The fund is aimed at helping small projects and communities within the Black Country and the 158-year-old society is offering two donations of £500 and five additional opportunities to receive £100.

The chosen applicants will also receive support from the society through publicity.

It is focused on areas around the branches in Dudley, Gornal, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Kingswinford, as part of the society's larger community strategy.

This will see increased support of community events and volunteering opportunities within the next twelve months.

Society chief executive Jeremy Wood said: "The communities around our branches and head office are extremely important to everyone here at Dudley Building Society.

"As a mutual organisation it is imperative we support others, the launch of this year's fund for the third year running shows a continuous relationship to ensure the local communities are at the core of everything we do. We want to ensure we add value and really make a difference."

The deadline is 5pm on Friday, November 4. Anyone wishing to apply for the fund can request an application form from one of the local branches or download an application by visiting www.dudleybuildingsociety.co.uk/community-support-fund-2016

Town Shuttle firm wins rail award

THE company that operates the Stourbridge Shuttle has been recognised at an awards ceremony.

Pre Metro Operations, who operate the Shuttle with London Midland, was highly commended in the operator of the year category at the Global Light Rail Award.

Judges said they were impressed with the Shuttle's reliability, continuing growth during its seven-year operation on the Stourbridge branch line and the work of its staff.

Operations director Steve Jasper said: "We are obviously very pleased to be recognised in this way for the success of our Stourbridge Shuttle, especially in the face of such strong opposition from around the globe. Our staff do us proud."

Legion's dance for poppy fund

THE Royal British Legion is to hold an annual poppy dance in Dudley. The SP Band and Waves Against Tides perform from 8pm on November 4 at the Lower Gornal branch on Ruiton Street. Tickets £4.50 on the door.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Health trust seeks more volunteers

THE Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is holding an open day to try and recruit more volunteers.

It is being held at Russells Hall Hospital on November 11 from 10am to noon.

It will be hosted by chief operating officer Paul Bytheway and will offer a chance to talk to existing volunteers and find out about the range of volunteering opportunities available across the trust's sites in the borough.

Anyone over 16 who would like to book a place should call (01384) 456111, extension 1064.

Busy zoo staff shift 40 tonnes

DUDLEY Zoo keepers showed their true grit when it came to shifting 40 tonnes of gravel and sand.

Staff hired a digger to transport the flooring materials into the giraffe paddock, where keepers moved it to various enclosures across the 40-acre site in wheelbarrows.

Assistant curator, Jay Haywood said: "We're freshening up quite a few enclosures with the gravel and sand."

The gravel has been added to the giraffe, tapir, wallaby and tiger enclosures as well as Lemur Wood. The sand was used around play equipment.

Spooky crafts and fun at glass cone

FAMILY events with a spooky Halloween theme are being held at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone.

There will be a zombie family day on Wednesday, October 26, from 10am-3pm. Admission is free but there is a charge of £2.35 for craft activities.

There's also a glass fusion session on October 27 where children can make a glass ghost or zombie. Sessions run at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1 and 2pm, £4.25 per child and must be booked. Call (01384) 812750 or 812381

Talented dog Trip to perform at pet show

A CLEVER canine who appeared on Britain's Got Talent will be headlining at The National Pet Show at Birmingham's NEC next month.

Dog trainer Lucy Heath and her dog Trip Hazard will open the show's SuperDogs Live event at the two-day show, performing new routines in front of a 2,000-strong audience.

It takes place on November 5 and 6 and will be hosted by BBC TV presenter Michaela Strachan. See www.thenationalpetshow.com website.

Pumpkin carving time

PEOPLE can have a go at pumpkin carving in Dudley on Tuesday afternoon. The session will run from 1.30pm until 3pm at Priory Park. There is a suggested donation of £2 per person and people can take away their carved pumpkin. Book a place by calling (01384) 812 474.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Tax claims on health company sicken me

THE chances are that when you visit your GP, you do not give too much thought to the nationality of the company which runs the practice, still less its tax affairs. As long as the doctor makes you better, the admin side is not your concern.

Even so, it must surely come as a bit of a surprise to the thousands of Black Country patients who this week discovered thanks to some excellent investigative reporting from the BBC's health correspondent Michele Paduano that Malling Health, which runs surgeries in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, is owned by a parent company in the Bahamas.

Even more controversial is the revelation that the NHS contractor has been using taxpayers' money to pay 20 per cent interest on a loan from the said parent company in the sun-kissed tax haven. As a general rule, I think people are too keen to get on their high-horse about tax avoidance. Most of us pay as little tax as possible, given the chance. It is why we take out Isas and ask our financial advisors about 'tax efficient' investments.

However, at a time when we are constantly told how NHS resources are under pressure, can it really be right that doctors' surgeries are sending NHS money abroad? If they really need to borrow money, which I suspect they don't, their high-street bank will loan it at a fifth of that rate. GP services are supposed to be about caring for patients, not playing city whizzkids.

❒❒❒

WITHIN hours of claiming the weak pound was forcing it to increase the price of Marmite, the Unilever conglomerate backed down under pressure from Tesco.

Given that Marmite is made from a yeast by-product of breweries in Staffordshire, it is hard to see how currency fluctuations had much of an impact. The words 'opportunistic' and 'profiteering' spring to mind.

The big supermarkets often get a bad press. But Tesco deserves praise for standing up for the consumer.

❒❒❒

FOR what it's worth – and I concede that is probably not a great deal – here is my prediction of what will happen when Staffordshire Council introduces its pay-as-you-go charging regime for people using the public tips next month.

Within a few weeks, shifty-looking characters will start sticking photocopied leaflets through people's door, offering a doorstep waste-disposal at half the price quoted by Staffordshire Council. People will use this service rather than the official one, and then one night the unofficial waste disposal operators will drive their pick-up to a local beauty spot and empty its contents. The council will then have to clean the site up, at the taxpayers' expense. And everyone's a loser, except the shysters with the pick-up truck.

White Out Staffordshire Moorlands by Margaret Jarvis

The Iron Bridge by Anthony Clemson

Carol Widenbar with her Rhinoceros sculpture

It's a change of art as group hits 100

Exhibition is back by popular demand and for the first time with a theme – metamorphosis, as reporter CARL JACKSON explains

DOZENS of artworks have gone on display in Wolverhampton including an exhibition dedicated to change.

Wolverhampton Society of Artists has held one show once every 12 months throughout its 100 years but it is returning to the art gallery on Lichfield Street for the second time in 2016 by popular demand, such was the success of the first display.

Seventy pieces are on show and will be available to view until November 13.

As well as the usual array of different works from members, the group has taken the opportunity to hold its first themed exhibition which is inspired by metamorphosis – the process of dramatic change or transformation.

The idea was the brainchild of the society's resident professional snapper Chris Manley.

Digital

Society member Carol Widenbar said: "We have one section on metamorphosis alongside the usual collection of works from members. It is a new idea this year to have a theme.

"There are one or two digital artworks for the first time. Although we are an old and established society we are trying to get ourselves into the 21st century.

"So our professional photographer Chris had the idea that because this was the first time we were embracing the digital form and the first time we were having a theme, that it should be around the reflection of change which or course is metamorphosis. The digital artworks are all original which have involved a computer in some way. We have not accepted photographs as that exists as another form."

The works were all submitted anonymously. Among those to look out for includes Ms Widenber's ceramic rhinoceros which she said was an 'experiment that turned out to be quite cute'.

Another work sure to catch the eye is Sarah Stokes' Through the Looking Glass which uses oil on glass to depict an eye. Visitors should also look out for Julia Timmins' Guineafowl wood carving.

Plenty to see at Wolverhampton Society of Artists exhibition and, inset, The Third Stage: Wren's Nest Escarpment by Margaret Jarvis

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Arranging deckchairs while iceberg looms

PUTIN and Assad are escalating the situation in Syria to unbelievable levels of inhumanity and atrocity, indiscriminate (or cruelly calculated) aerial bombings of innocent civilians and courageous aid-workers. Why do they think they can do this with impunity?

Firstly, they have managed to sideline the Americans almost completely out of the equation. Secondly, they can thank Mr Farage and the Brexits by weakening both Britain and Europe, possibly even sowing the seeds of an eventual breakdown of European unity. This would be disastrous for our stability, security and peace but advantageous for an expansionist Russia.

Cracks in solidarity amongst the European allies will encourage Putin and Assad to continue their heartless course and make the Americans even more reluctant to involve themselves, possibly even causing them to question the relevance of maintaining the 'special relationship' with Britain which they have seen as a bridge into Europe.

One assassination in Sarajevo in 1914 spread chaos across the whole of Europe and, if we are not careful, the Syria crisis could also spread far beyond its borders. I have listened patiently to the contradictory statements of the politicians, the pundits and economists as they pontificate about trade agreements, immigration quotas, tariffs, but none of them seem to address the dangerous political instability which is developing.

It seems to me that the 'Remain' and 'Leave' factions are so preoccupied with squabbling about the deckchairs that they fail to see the massive iceberg which is drifting towards the ship.

ROBERT PERRY
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Poetic way of saying thank you

A POEM of thanks from a very grateful patient:

Russells Hall Hospital is simply the best,
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Dedication they show is beyond compare,
Would be hard to find no matter where.
The staff are so kind and friendly too,
They cheer you up when you're feeling blue.
To find any one better, you'd go a long way,
Serving delicious meals in bed, on a tray.
I'd give a large bouquet to every one,
But there are so many angels it can't be done.
So I have to say God bless you all,
And this will be echoed, by one and all.

MRS VAL GROSVENOR
(aged 83)
Stourbridge

Town's museum move makes no sense

SO. it's really going to happen.

Dudley Museum and Art Gallery is to close just before Christmas and staff will be sacked.

Yet the case for its closure seems to have been based in the premise that it is 'inaccessible' for wheelchair users. It isn't.

There was also the claim that 'it makes absolute sense to move its contents to the archives building to benefit from tourism at Castle Hill'. But this building was designed to accommodate ever-increasing amounts of documents and records. And it will need extensive and expensive alterations in order to make space for exhibits that have been so lovingly created in the available space at the present site.

That present site is the only attraction that the town centre has to offer the inquisitive visitor.

Unlike the archives centre, there are plenty of parking spaces, shops and cafes within easy reach. Now the proponents of the move are having to scrat around for alternative uses for the building in order to prevent it dropping to pieces.

Absolute sense? Only to some.

ROBERT ASTON
Coseley

Obscene pay-outs must stop

IT is not often I feel the need to read an article twice let alone three times, but in the case of the pay-off to chief executive to the West Midlands Police Authority I found myself in the realms of disbelief.

To quote some figures, after seven years in a post with a salary of £109,300, and an Audi company car she left receiving a £74,600 loss of office payment plus £278,900 paid into her pension pot because of a scheme where public sector employers must make the contributions they would have made up to the employee's normal retirement date, even if they leave their job.

These obscene benefits being paid out of tax payers' money surely must stop, sooner or later there will not be enough money coming in to pay them.

Interesting that on the same page was a feature on axing lollipop wardens to save £260,000 a year.

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Talk is cheep about birds of Wyre Forest

Canal talk proves a cut above

Amblecote History Society

GEOFF Longmore introduced speaker Chris Dyche to the September 12 meeting to give a talk on 'A View of our Local Canal'.

Chris is a local man with a passion for canals and director of both the Stourbridge Navigation Trust and the Staffs & Worcs Canal Society.

To set the scene his talk would focus specifically on the Stourbridge arm of the canal – often referred to as the "Crystal Canal", and the Bonded Warehouse itself.

Chris took to the stage, armed with cartridges full of photographic slides which projected really well onto the pull down screen in the Lehr Theatre. The Stourbridge arm is the one-and-a-half mile length which starts at Wordsley Junction and now terminates at the Bonded Warehouse. This stretch has much local and national history being engineered by Thomas Dadford and opened in 1779 linking to the Staffs & Worcs Canal, which formed the main line through to Brierley Hill.

Chris went through the various stages, history, obstacles and amusing stories associated with the restoration of the Stourbridge arm and the Bonded Warehouse from desolation, including the extraction of a Ford Popular and a Morris 1000 out of "the cut"to what it is today – a vibrant and well used community asset.

He displayed many photographs showing the state of repair of the canal with before and after shots.

Geoff Longmore gave thanks for an inspiring talk.

Healthy turnout for annual flower show

Clent Gardening Club

THE first Saturday in September saw the Annual Flower Show in Clent Parish Hall held jointly with Clent WI.

A healthy turnout of parishioners were treated to a splendid array of plants, vegetables and floral displays as Gardening Club members and others showed off their prowess.

Not to be outdone there was also a healthy contribution of produce cakes and preserves from the WI members and a variety of local paintings and crafts were also on display.

Some splendid children's exhibits and some excellent photography also featured.

This year, for the first time, a marquee was erected at the rear of the village hall and the tombola and tea/cake stall enjoyed a roaring trade – a worthy show to mark its 70th anniversary.

The September meeting welcomed Nigel Hopes form Stourbridge for a talk on a year at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. He gave a brief history of the gardens and used photographs to give a behind the scenes insight.

Nigel took a number of questions from the audience then drew the raffle.

Nigel's wife Samantha will give a talk in October on Hellebores grown at Ashwoods Nursery.

Meetings are held at Clent Village Hall on the fourth Friday each month. Call chairman Martin Grange on 01562 883009/07917 184762 or visit https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com

Grange E Guild

CHRIS Holton presided over the October meeting held at Grange Court, Stourbridge. She gave a warm welcome to all members and three guests.

Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up to date financial report and secretary Jean Williams said she had received the new programme from the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster and was prepared to book tickets for one of the shows. Several proposals were put forward for outings in 2017.

Marlene O'Hanlon reported the shoebox appeal was now closed and thanked everyone for their donations. She had arranged the next meeting of the lunch club at the Swallows Nest, Romsley on October 18.

Speaker John Robinson gave a very interesting talk with a slide show about flowers and birds of the Wyre Forest. Chris gave a vote of thanks.

Refreshments were served and the raffle drawn with three ladies winning prizes.

At the November 1 meeting, the speaker will be a representative from Waitrose in Stourbridge and will be a cheese and wine evening.

Thornton's talk on chocolate

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

THE Ladies met on October 6 at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford. Chairman, Sheila Evans welcomed everyone and accepted apologies.

Pam Ingman, secretary, read the minutes from the September meeting and all business matters were approved and signed.

Sheila announced the Christmas luncheon would be at The Bell, Kingswinford, on December 8 and the Christmas party on December 1. The trip to Trentham will be on November 10.

Speaker was Mr Alan Thornton with a talk and film entitled "The Bournville Story".

Iris Hemfrey gave the vote of thanks and two ladies won raffle prizes. The next meeting will be on November 3 at 7.45pm.

Raymond is on song – for love of Wolves

IT'S not often you get to hear new music inspired by Wolverhampton Wanderers.

But a poet and author has not only put pen to paper but recorded a song in celebration of the club.

Raymond Edwards, aged 79, has produced his own CD, including two tracks called The Fan's Dream and I'm Lonely, based on a poster he created for Wolves in 2003.

The poster was made to celebrate Wolves' then promotion to the Premiership and raise money for the Wolverhampton Coronary Aftercare Group.

It featured a special verse about the return to the top flight, as well as caricatures of the team surrounded by fans. The verse on the poster inspired the track The Fan's Dream and recording the song posed challenges for Raymond.

Difficult

"It's quite difficult to turn a poem into a song, as some of the words just couldn't be sung, so we had to change them as we went along!" he said.

Some of the lyrics of the song are:

In the Midland counties, with its smoke and industrial haze, a football team was born, in those far off distant days.

All gold and black the colours they wore with lasting pride, nothing ever worries them, the ball is on their side.

Playing in that stadium, Molineux its name, saluting all our heroes, for football is their game.

A shrine to their achievements, there's certainly quite a few, of legends from the past, the friends that we all knew.

The air's alive on match day, as the game swings to and fro, a goal becomes wide open and the ball knows where to go!

With CD he has produced, Raymond Edwards with friend Cedric Westley

Raymond, from Sedgley, hopes to release the CD for charity, with some of the proceeds going to the Lanesfield Royal British Legion Club. He created the song with the help of his friend and life-long Wolves fan Cedric Westley, aged 81.

"I hope the song will be like a bit of a chant, and will bring the team luck. I'm a season ticket holder and I've said I'll keep going until Wolves make it into the Premier League again."

The second song on the £3 CD, entitled 'I'm Lonely' is perhaps a more personal one for Raymond, who has suffered with various health issues over the last few years. I've only just got out of hospital and I was pretty much at death's door. I got out and I thought, if I don't do this now, I never will."

Raymond added: "I just want to say thank you to all the staff at New Cross Hospital that helped look after me, all those that work on the C35 Deanesly Ward and C21, B7."

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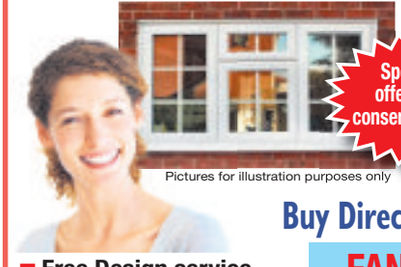

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Mentally ill people 'need special support not A&E'

MENTALLY ill patients who dial 999 are being taken to A&E instead of getting psychological support, a mental health specialist has said.

Not only is Leanne Chapman a sergeant with West Midlands police, she is also a member of the mental health triage team, a partnership between the force, West Midlands Ambulance Service, and mental health colleagues.

The triage team operates a car with a police officer, mental health nurse and paramedic, who respond to 999 calls involving people who are suffering from an emergency related to their mental health.

However the triage is only on-call at certain times during the week, which means that when a mentally ill patient calls the emergency number outside these hours they are again put through to either the police, fire or ambulance service.

Distressed

As a result, those who have no physical injuries but are suffering mentally are being taken to A&E only to be sent home again.

Sergeant Chapman said: "If you are psychotic, anxious and really, really distressed, and then you are taken to A&E, are you getting the right support? The mental health triage team averages 400 cases a month and operates 10am to 2am, seven days a week, and until 3am Friday and Saturday."

There are two teams in the Black Country, early and late shift, and two in the Birmingham and Solihull area. But these limited hours fell outside when one mental health sufferer needed urgent support. Although he prefers to remain anonymous, the patient spoke about his experience.

"My mental health was deteriorating and I thought the best thing I could do was to get help. I phoned 999 but the operator didn't know what I was talking about. The more questions they were asking the more frustrated I was getting. They were asking me things that weren't helpful," he said.

Desperate for help, he ended up speaking to the fire, ambulance and police, with the latter actually attending before he was taken to A&E.

"I didn't think that was the best place for me because I didn't have any physical injuries," he said. After four hours in the emergency unit he was simply sent back home.

Sergeant Chapman said: "It was really interesting to hear the different approaches that the services had. The ambulance service went through a check-list of questions that they need to ask, and that was infuriating him, being asked if he had problems breathing and chest pains."

A WMAS spokesman said: ""The Trust would welcome additional funding to provide 24/7 cover of the triage teams."

Triage – Lloyd Fox, paramedic Richard Bloore and nurse Harriot Lawrence

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Hundreds of jobs axed at diner chain

NEARLY 400 jobs will be cut across Ed's Easy Diner restaurants after the brand was bought out by an arm of the food empire run by Black Country 'chicken king' Ranjit Boparan.

Giraffe Concepts, which is owned by Boparan Restaurant Holdings, will close about half of the Ed's Easy Diner locations across the UK and slash 379 jobs as part of a pre-packaged administration sale. But the chain's branches in Birmingham and the Black Country are not included in the cuts.

The American diner-themed chain has been struggling. A total of 26 of the existing 59 restaurants have closed with immediate effect, including one in Redditch.

The 33 that are continuing to operate include one at intu Merry Hill and four in Birmingham, including the Bull Ring branches. Rob Croxen, partner at administrator KPMG, said: "Our immediate priority will be to liaise with those employees who have been affected by redundancy."

National Trust are launching Kinver Edge paths appeal

A PATHWAY linking historic landmarks at Kinver Edge will be created to mark 100 years since the site was donated to the National Trust.

The sandstone ridge and heath near Stourbridge is popular with visitors largely for its Holy Austin rock houses which were inhabited until the 1960s and can be visited.

The Edge also has an Iron Age Hill Fort, woodland walks, exposed red sandstone and orchards.

The proposed Centenary Pathway will join all these features with a three and a half mile accessible trail circling the site, which will be created largely by improving existing routes.

Bosses at the National Trust have launched a fundraising campaign in a bid to cover the £175,000 costs.

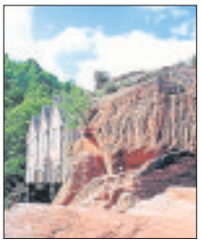
Helen Selkirk, visitor experience officer, said: "The idea is to improve access for all users. The surface of the pathway will be multi-use friendly in that it will be suitable for wheels, hooves or feet."

Kinver Edge was gifted to the National Trust in 1917 by the Lee family who wanted the site to be enjoyed by people from the Black Country and beyond.

Bosses see the scheme as continuing the tradition of conservation and access. The funding campaign has already attracted nearly £30,000 via a JustGiving page and other donations have been made in person by visitors to the site.

This will pay for gates and additional resting spots at steeper points on the trail, on which work will start this winter. The rest of the pathway will be created as and when funding becomes available.

It is also proposed to create improved signage so that visitors are aware of the degree of difficulty on different parts of the pathway.



The Rock Houses at Kinver

Artful Twist to a Dickens tale

A HIP HOP and contemporary dance group from London are bringing their re-imagined version of Oliver Twist to Birmingham with Fagin's Twist.

Staged tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow night at The Patrick Centre inside Birmingham Hippodrome, the production by Avant Garde Dance Theatre looks at the youth of Dickens' famous character Fagin and what turned him into a thief.

It also features such characters as Oliver, Nancy, the Artful Dodger and Bill Sykes.

Fagin's Twist, which draws parallels between Victorian society and today, is performed at 7.45 each evening.

Tickets are £12 and can be booked on 0844 338 5000 or from birminghamhippodrome.com website.

Creepy creatures and spooky fun at zoo

Presenter Langan Turner dares to enter the haunted cottage

BRAVE young souls are invited to Dudley Zoological Gardens for their upcoming children's Hocus Pocus evenings.

They can dress up in spooky costumes to watch Dippy's Halloween Show and participate in ghoulish games. There will also be some close encounters with a variety of creepy critters including snakes, spiders and cockroaches.

There's the chance to take part in a Halloween Hunt around the zoo's allegedly haunted site and to enter the Haunted Cottage.

The Hocus Pocus evenings are taking place on Thursday and Friday, October 27 and 28. Tickets are limited and are priced £9 with under 3s free.

Meanwhile, adults can get into the Halloween spirit from 8pm on Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29 during a Paranormal Evening in the heart of the 11th century castle, which will feature investigations, vigils, experiments and tours. Tickets for this over 18s-only event are priced at £30.

To book for all Halloween events visit dudleyzoo.org.uk or call (01384) 215313.

Bhangra night for Dancing Grannies

THE Black Country's Dancing Grannies are adding a dash of Asian spice to their world-famous routine.

The Grannies, also known as comedy group the Fizzogs, will take part in a flash mob alongside modern Bhangra dance troup Eclectic Dancers in Birmingham on October 29. The location is being kept secret until 24 hours before the event so they can spring a surprise on unsuspecting members of the public.

The Grannies – Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls and Jacky Fellows – will join the Birmingham-based Bhangra group and invite onlookers to take part.

The Fizzogs have gained widespread acclaim for their Grannies dance routine and attracted more than 60 million views on social media sites around the globe. They recently took the Edinburgh Fringe Festival by storm.

They will be performing their 'Black Country Fairy Tale, 'Ay It' at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on October 27.

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Val is celebrating a milestone as carer

Val Gillies is celebrating after completing a milestone of 1,000 hours of care for the elderly in Dudley borough

A CARER in Dudley is celebrating after completing a milestone of providing a thousand hours of care.

Val Gillies, aged 58, who works for Home Instead Senior Care, visits elderly clients regularly and helps them with their shopping, cooking, and other daily routines.

Her care assists them to remain living independently in their own homes and she also provides them with companionship.

Val has been working at Home Instead for about a year and has worked in the care sector for more than 20 years.

She said: "I really enjoy getting to know my clients. I love taking them out for a cup of tea at the local café or for a stroll in the park.

"I have great training opportunities and a supportive employer who is always there to give me help and advice. The best part of my job is the diverse range of people I get to meet.

"There is so much more to the job than personal care and I am privileged to spend my time with truly amazing people, listening to their stories, really getting to know them, and regularly having a laugh and sometimes even shedding a tear."

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Governors says school can't afford to fund lollipop patrols

GOVERNORS of a primary school located on a busy road have spoken of their concern that cash-strapped Dudley Council is planning to axe lollipop patrols.

Bosses at Thorns Primary in Quarry Bank say children are 'at great risk' from the busy Thorns Road.

Fifty speeding drivers were reported and two vehicles were seized in a two hour police crackdown on the road and nearby Dudley Road earlier this month.

As part of the authority's proposal, schools would have to pay for the crossing patrols. But Thorns Primary School governors say they cannot afford to do this without taking funds away from elsewhere in their budget.

The speed limit of Thorns Road was reduced from 40 to 30mph in 2014 in a bid to boost safety.

Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said the safety of children was of 'paramount importance'. But the free crossing service for schools is being reviewed due to ongoing funding cuts by central government, particularly as there was no legal requirement for the council to fund such patrols.

Statement

A statement released from the governing body of the school stated: "Governors of Thorns Primary School wish to raise our concerns regarding the future of school crossing patrols in Dudley.

"Governors understand that the council is experiencing extreme budget difficulties but feels the council is not recognising that schools are already in a similar financial position. Such financial off-loading by the council will inevitably impact on the employment of teaching staff and academic standards – schools have not the budget to pay for crossing patrols."

Homes being sought for sibling groups

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to encourage more families to adopt sibling groups in the Black Country.

Adoption in the Black Country and Adoption Focus wants to highlight the need for adopters to come forward for older children and siblings.

As part of its national adoption week campaign, it is hosting an event at the Novotel in Wolverhampton on Monday at 6pm.

National figures from the British Association for Adoption and Fostering show nearly half of children waiting for a family are part of a sibling group, due to a shortage of people adopting brothers and sisters.

Spokesman Ian Groom said: "Children who need to be adopted have usually had a hard start in life and it is important to experience the stability and support being with their brothers and sisters can bring."

To find out more see www.adoptionblackcountry.co.uk or call 0800 073 0597.

Zoo wildcat Bart dies at the age of 22

Bart, the 22-year-old cat, was popular with staff and visitors at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo's oldest cat – 22-year-old Bart – has died.

The Geoffroy's Cat, the oldest one of his species in Europe, was put to sleep by keepers following consultation with the zoo's veterinary team.

The decision was made after the wildcat's health took a turn for the worse and deteriorated.

Bosses at Dudley Zoo said the captive wildcat, native to South America, had Dudley Zoo as his home since the late 1980s.

They said that Bart, who had outlived the typical life expectancy for his species in the wild, would be sadly missed.

Curator Richard Brown, said: "Bart had surpassed the life expectancy of a captive wild cat by more than two years and he was even the oldest one of his species in Europe.

"But he was showing his old age, so the decision was the kindest thing for him.

"He's been here at Dudley Zoo Gardens for 17 years, so he'll be missed as he was quite a character."

Geoffroy's cats are the size of a domestic cat and are found in the southern and central regions of South America.

The life expectancy of the species in the wild is approximately 18 years.

Unlike some wild animals in South America and across the world, the species is widespread and abundant, and so international conservation groups such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature do not consider it a threatened species.

Crematorium reopens after £1.3m revamp

A MODERNISED Rowley Regis Crematorium and Chapel has officially reopened following a £1.3 million revamp.

Work to upgrade the building and chapel, which first opened in 1962, started two years ago and has seen the chapel more than double its capacity for up to 120 mourners.

Improvements include a new more energy-efficient cremator, a dedicated waiting area and reception and digital music and web broadcasting facilities for family and friends who cannot attend a funeral. There is also dedicated car parking, a sheltered floral space, a book of remembrance room, new entrance, improved toilet facilities and improvements to the interior and exterior of the building.

Sandwell's mayor Councillor Julie Webb was present at the opening ceremony last Thursday along with council leader Councillor Steve Eling, deputy leader Councillor Syeda Khatun, other ward members from the Rowley and Cradley areas andlocal funeral directors.

Councillor Chris Tranter, said: "It was necessary for us to have the best facilities for people in the borough." Councillor Khatun said: "Sandwell has always recognised the importance its residents place, at what is a very difficult time in their lives, on a quality bereavement service."

Model railway clubs stage annual display

CRADLEY Heath Model Railway Club's annual exhibition is on Sunday. There will be 17 layouts on show.

Among societies taking part are the West Midlands 7mm Narrow Gauge Association, 009 Society & The West Midlands Narrow Gauge Group and Tal-y-llyn Railway Preservation Society. It is at Cradley Heath Community Centre, Reddal Hill Road, on Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Entry is £4 for adults and £3 for children (4-14).

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MP critical of sprinkler move

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has criticised a Government proposal to scrap sprinklers in schools.

New proposals from the Department for Education suggest ending a commitment to fitting sprinklers in all new schools.

The Fire Brigades Union and the West Midlands Fire Service want the Government to ensure sprinklers are installed in more high-risk buildings.

Mr Austin has written to the Education Secretary Justine Greening urging her to keep regulations in place so all new schools carry sprinklers.

He said: "No one wants unnecessary red tape but these rules are about protecting children. There's no reason why new schools shouldn't be equipped with sprinklers to help protect children in the event of a fire. I have written to the Education Secretary Justine Greening urging her to use common sense and keep these regulations in place."

Pub landlady sent to prison over speeding offence lies

A LYING pub landlady has been jailed after trying to con police over a string of speeding offences.

Samantha Keegan's Audi was clocked in May, July and September last year topping 30mph limits but on each occasion claimed her A4 was parked on her driveway at the time of the offences.

The 33-year-old suggested speed cameras had caught another blue Audi running on cloned plates.

To support her lies Keegan was said to have put stickers – including a Union Jack flag and a GB disc – on the rear bumper and window of her car in an attempt to try and alter its appearance. However, the car was seized by West Midlands Police following information it was used in a robbery on October 31 last year when £7,000 in takings was stolen from the Holly Bush Inn on Penn Road, Wolverhampton, where Keegan worked.

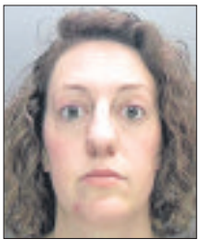
Camera

Keegan, who also ran the Clarendon in Chapel Ash and Meadow Lark in Dudley, was cleared of involvement in that but examination of the car showed tell-tale details that matched the images caught by speed cameras.

She claimed her ex-husband put the stickers on the car and then claimed not to remember his name. When officers checked Keegan's phone they found text messages to her new partner. One read: "I can't keep blagging my way out of these, I could end up in serious trouble."

She told officers her car was outside her new Dorset address on September 22 when it was clocked at 37mph along Stow Heath Lane in Wolverhampton.

She eventually admitted perverting the course of justice. A judge at Birmingham Crown Court jailed her for eight months.



Guilty – Samantha Keegan

Careers event for students

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James is hosting a careers evening on November 11 at the town's Glasshouse College. It is part of the Business Minister's 'raising aspirations' programme.

It will take place from 4.30pm to 6.30pm and offers be a chance for students to network with a number of businesses and organisations, as well as attending workshops on topics such as apprenticeships and the job application process.

Ms James said: "My aspirations programme is designed to give students the chance to find out more information about education and career opportunities post-16. I want every young person in Stourbridge to fulfil their potential."

To attend, visit the website signup.margotjames.com or email margot.james.mp@parliament.uk or call (01384) 370 574.

US rockers Kings of Leon are bringing UK tour to city venue

Rock band Kings of Leon have announced a Birmingham date in February

AMERICAN rock band Kings of Leon have announced a late winter date at a Birmingham venue as part of their first UK tour in more than two years.

The group consisting of brothers Caleb, Nathan and Jared Followill with their cousin Matthew Followill, found fame with such tracks as Sex on Fire, Supersoaker and Use Somebody, will play the Genting Arena on February 20.

The Grammy-award winning band from Tennessee released their seventh studio album, Walls, this month.

Tickets go on general sale today (Thursday) from 9.30am, available via www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 3388 222.

Some of the best up-and-coming indie bands are playing the two-day All Years Leaving mini-festival at the Hare & Hounds pub in Kings Heath tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

Tomorrow's line up (from 6pm) is topped by London's Gengahr and includes Chicago punk band Twin Peaks and The Big Moon. Saturday (from 5pm) is led by Wolverhampton's Yak and includes Yuck and Hooton Tennis Club, among others. See www.thisistmrw.co.uk or pub website.

Man appears in court charged with murder of 18-year-old

A MAN arrested in a dawn raid in Dudley has appeared in court charged with the murder of a Birmingham teenager.

Isaiah Wright-Young, aged 36, was arrested in Dixons Green Road just after 5am on Sunday in connection with the killing of 18-year-old Kenichi Phillips.

Mr Phillips was shot dead on St Marks Crescent in the Ladywood area of Birmingham as he sat in a black Seat Leon just before 7pm on March 17.

Wright-Young, of no fixed address, stands accused of murder, attempted murder, attempted wounding with intent to cause grievous harm and two counts of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

He appeared at Birmingham magistrates court on Monday and the case was adjourned to the city's crown court.

A 24-year-old woman, who was arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender, was released on police bail.

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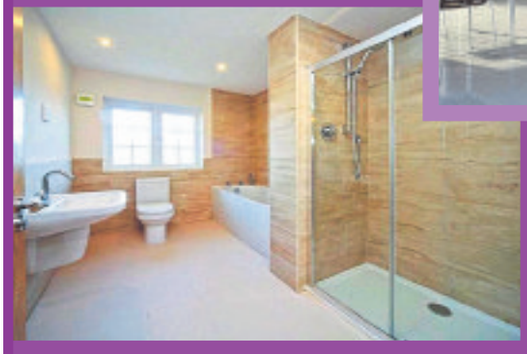

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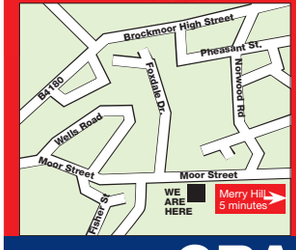

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Cannabis farm raided by police

A £200,000 cannabis farm was raided by police in Sedgley and led to the arrest of two teenagers.

More than 300 plants were found by officers at an address in Gospel End Road.

A 15-year-old boy and an 18-year-old man were arrested at the scene by police, who were executing a drugs warrant. The two were then released on bail pending further inquiries.

Police officers found a 'professional' cannabis farm set up with more than 300 plants at various stages of growth during the raid on Saturday, October 8.

South Staffordshire Local Policing Team Commander, Chief Inspector Giles Parsons, said: "I urge people living in communities affected by drug dealers to come forward and tell us about their concerns."

Borough council's bill for pothole damage is shrinking

DUDLEY Council paid out just over £3,000 in in 12 months as a result of pothole damage to vehicles.

The authority received 66 claims in 2015-16 and was forced to shell out £3,170 in compensation – the lowest figure in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

It was ranked 105th of 152 councils across the country, according to figures released by the RAC Foundation.

The council's 2015-16 compensation payout was well down on the previous year's of £12,390.

Walsall received 61 claims and paid out £4,891; Sandwell 107 claims, paying out £10,862; and Wolverhampton 67 claims with a total paid out of £7,066.

Staffordshire County Council was ranked the seventh worst council across the country – shelling out £34,628 after receiving 817 claims.

Fund

Dudley's environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills, said the authority had carried out work in the past year after receiving a £9 million pot of cash from the Government's Challenge Fund.

She said: "We got the funding and tried to do as much as possible to fill in potholes and are still doing so. I'm delighted that the hard work of those who put in the bid has been rewarded."

This year the Black Country and Staffordshire will get £1.5m to fill potholes.

Analysis by the RAC Foundation found the average value of a claim was £432, though the average value of a successful claim was lower at £306.

The only authority in Great Britain to receive no claims for vehicle damage caused by potholes in 2015/16 was the Isles of Scilly.

Service gets a 'good' rating

A COUNCIL service designed to prevent people being admitted to hospital has been rated 'good' by a health watchdog.

Dudley Council's homecare team, which provides intensive short term social care to help people stay in their own home, was recently inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The commission spent a day with the team to assess the services it delivers.

It found that the service, which has supported more than 2,200 people in the last 12 months, was 'safe, effective, caring, responsive and well led'.

The report highlighted that people spoke positively about the care staff and that appropriate support was in place to ensure people could be independent.

Head over heels for Kristian

Gymnast Kristian Thomas with Dormston pupils Megan Tabner, Emily Wilkes, teacher Lisa Brayshaw, James Lockley and Thomas Harris

YOUNGSTERS at a Sedgley school enjoyed a special assembly from Olympic gymnast Kristian Thomas.

The London 2012 bronze medallist gave an hour-long talk to Year 7 pupils at Dormston School and performed a series of somersaults for them.

Teachers at the school said the assembly was inspiring for pupils who all had their diaries signed by the 27-year-old, who hails from Wolverhampton and trains in Halesowen.

He gave a talk about his own journey to becoming a decorated gymnast who competed at London and Rio.

Lisa Brayshaw, PE Teacher and Year 7 co-ordinator at the school, said: "Kristian is a great speaker, he inspired the year seven pupils. The year 7s worked hard to prepare and ask good questions."

The gymnast signed around 253 diary planners after the assembly.

Kristian was a pupil at St Edmund's School in Compton. He trains at Earls High School in Halesowen and has won more than a dozen medals over his gymnastic career. This includes a bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games, during the final of the men's artistic gymnastics all round team competition. He also won gold in the 2012 European Championships event.

Kristian, who recently began working on a degree at the University of Wolverhampton, said: "I enjoy going into schools and trying to inspire the next generation.

"I spoke to the students about my journey and getting to the Olympics. My message was about working hard and being dedicated."

Frozen family fun at Disney On Ice show

DISNEY On Ice are bringing the winter wonderland of Academy Award-winning movie Frozen to Birmingham during half-term week.

Families are being invited to join in with the big hit song Let It Go as they join royal sisters Anna and Elsa, the hilarious snowman Olaf, mountain man Kristoff and his reindeer Sven, as they journey to discover that true love is the most magical power of all.

This all-new full-length ice dance version of the hugely popular animated movie will be presented at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham city centre for 11 performances between Tuesday and Sunday, October 25 to 30. This will include morning, matinee and evening performances.

Contact the ticket hotline on 0844 33 88 222 or visit theticketfactory.com website.

First World War story

WRITTEN by entertainers Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean, Brummegem Pals is a play with music about two teenage apprentices who in 1914 decide to seek adventure by joining the Army.

The story follows the lads from training to the Battle of the Somme. It will be performed by a cast of 13 led by Stent and Maclean themselves in this moving production at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday (7.30) and Wednesday (2.30). See grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

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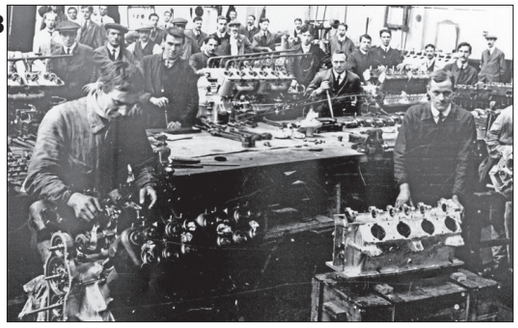


Worker at Sunbeam Motor Car Company Blakenhall 1913

Hobson workers producing aircraft carburettors during WW1 at Accuracy Works

A Bordie helmet from WW2 made by Joseph Sankey and Sons

Guy Motors worker Hilda Durman checking parts at the factory during WW2

Keep calm and carry on working in war

THEY were buzzing hives of activity during conflicts and now a new exhibition is to pay tribute to the role played by Black Country factories in the war effort.

The Work in Wartime exhibition at Bilston Craft Gallery highlights the scale and importance of factories in Wolverhampton and Bilston during the First and Second World Wars.

The exhibition features dozens of archive images from Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies and also original items, including Villiers engines, a motorcycle and bicycle used by the British Cyclist Corps during the First World War and a very rare Sunbeam military dispatch rider's motorcycle on loan from the Black Country Living Museum.

Also on show are objects, documents and photographs from factories including Boulton Paul, Guy Motors, Goodyear and Sankey.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Jessica Labhart

Councillor John Reynolds, cabinet member for city economy, said: "This is a fascinating look at the vital role so many factories and workers from the city made as part of the war effort."

As well as illustrating the range of factories involved in supplying British and other armed forces, the display aims to highlight social changes brought about by war – including many more women joining the workforce.

Modified

Boulton Paul was an aircraft manufacturer that began in 1914 in Norwich and moved to Wolverhampton. It lasted until 1961. The company mainly built and modified aircraft for other manufacturers but had a few notable designs of its own, such as the Defiant.

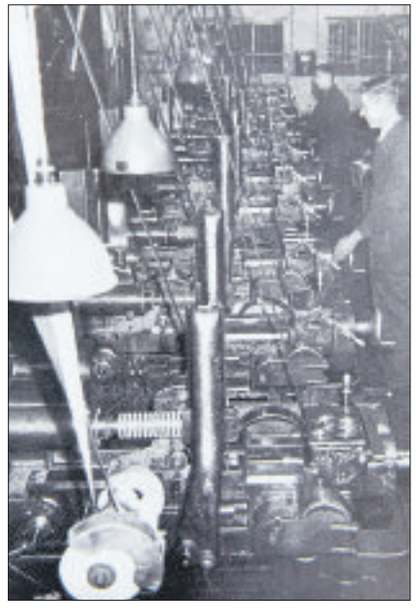
Guy Motors was a Wolverhampton-based vehicle manufacturer that produced cars, lorries, buses and trolleybuses.

As early as 1923 Guy Motors was working on military vehicles, and by 1928 the company was making a six-wheeled armoured car for the Indian Government. In the late 1930s Guys was heavily involved in the production of lorries and gun tractors for the British Army. Guy armoured cars were considered of such quality that they were used for the protection of the Royal Family and Winston Churchill.

The Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Company arrived in Wolverhampton in 1927. By the end of 1940 the company was Britain's second largest producer of aircraft tyres.

Joseph Sankey & Sons were a Bilston-based firm that produced steel helmets at their Albert Works in World War One, helping to save many lives. Sankeys no longer exists in Bilston. The Morrisons superstore now stands on part of the old site.

The free display at the gallery, on Mount Pleasant, is open until November 13.



A workshop at Villiers in WW2. The man is Bill Bough who worked there all his life

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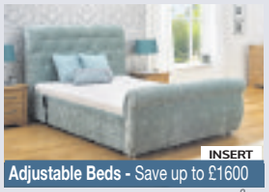

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Two wheel wedding for motorbike enthusiasts

Poddy and Karen roar into married life at Dudley Register Office where the wedding transport was strictly motorbikes

FORGET the Rolls Royce or Bentley, a Black Country couple celebrated tying the knot with a motorbike procession.

Biker David 'Poddy' Podmore, aged 50, and Karen Steer, 51, from Compton, Wolverhampton, married at Dudley Register Office and then rode to their reception on a Triumph Rocket followed by friends on their motorbikes.

Speaking on her son's wedding day on Friday, Poddy's mother Sue Keane, 70, said: "The day has been absolutely brilliant.

"Poddy and all his friends have always had motorcycles since they were old enough.

"Me and Poddy's dad always had a motorbike, bikes have always been in our family. Poddy has never been without a motorbike."

Around 12 bikes were in the convoy starting out from the register office before more joined them on the road.

Poddy rode his Triumph Rocket 2,300CC with Karen on the pillion.

The procession joined the happy couple as they made their way to Himley Cricket Club for the reception.

The two-wheel wedding procession

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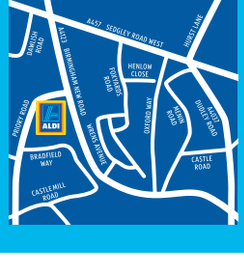

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As a family business our son Mark and Daughter Karen are the third generation of the family to work in the business, having employed both Ron's mother and Jan's father. Mark manages the day to day running of the store along with our colleague Cath could. Both Mark and Cath visit trade shows selecting new ranges of wallpapers to maintain our unrivalled selection, Karen manages the office. Ron still attends the store each day as he still is as enthusiast as he was 50 years ago. Sadly, Jan passed away in 2014 after working in the business for 48 years helping to build and establish the business.

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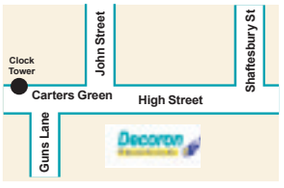

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£1.5m cannabis haul from streets

AT least £1.5 million worth of cannabis was seized from the streets of the West Midlands in September.

The figure was revealed by the West Midlands Police Cannabis Disposal Team – the taskforce set up to tackle cultivation of the drug.

Raids carried out in the Black Country last month accounted for almost two thirds of the overall figure. The largest raid saw 861 plants seized at two properties in Dudley, with a street value of around £430,000.

On average a cannabis factory is raided by police in the Black Country every three days. Figures from West Midlands Police showed £9m worth of drugs was seized in the region last year.

The raid in Dudley saw two men arrested at two adjoining properties on Stourbridge Road, Russells Hall, on September 20, where the 861 plants were found spread around seven rooms.

A total of 48,600 watts of electricity had been illegally used, police officers said. A 'strong smell' from the properties had led police there.

The raid was conducted by police officers from Dudley, West Midlands Police Cannabis Team and helicopter crews from the National Police Air Service based in Birmingham.

Cultivate

On September 2, a police warrant led to a raid of 451 cannabis plants from a house in Ebenezer Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich. The plants, with a street value of £220,000, were spread across five rooms. Two men were arrested following the raid. Police found electricity had been used, with fans and tubing together with hydroponic lights used to cultivate the drug.

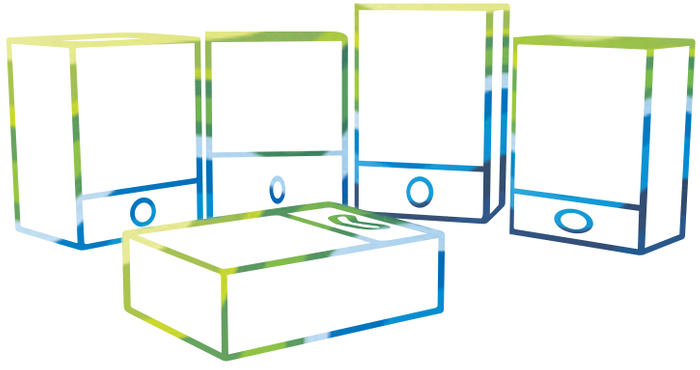
Around three weeks later, on September 21, police seized 300 plants from a property in Terry Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, after they were discovered by an Npower engineer. The estimated value was £90,000.

While in Walsall, 209 plants with an estimated value of £62,700 was seized by police on September 9. The plants were discovered by a landlord.

In Halesowen, 124 plants with an estimated value of £37,000 were seized from Bloomfield Street West. The raid took place on September 16, following a police warrant.

Another warrant led to the discovery of 81 plants at an address in Jameson Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, on September 23, with an estimated value of £24,300. In Netherton, 80 plants with an estimated value of £24,000 were discovered by the landlord of a property in Northfield Road.

Bosses of the cannabis team have highlighted how cannabis factories are getting smaller in size to reduce the risks of being found but have increased in number.



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Ant-fraud probe saves taxpayers £1.2m in year

ANTI-FRAUD investigations by Wolverhampton council and Wolverhampton Homes saved taxpayers an estimated £1.2 million last year, figures have revealed.

The investigations team uncovered 38 cases of Wolverhampton Homes tenancy fraud such as false applications and non-occupation of properties.

The estimated value of this fraud was £684,000. The update also showed there had been 931 cases of people falsely claiming the single person council tax discount with an estimated value of £230,000.

It also revealed a total of 16 cases of Wolverhampton Homes properties being illegally sublet – estimated at £288,000.

Priority

Some of the more audacious frauds uncovered included a woman claiming to be homeless and sleeping on a sofa with her children forced to stay with relatives. She had applied for a council house, but after investigation it was revealed she was not homeless at all and was actually living in a privately rented home. Her application was cancelled.

In another case, a man claimed to have five children living with him in an overcrowded house which gave him a higher priority on the housing waiting list and the offer of a three bedroom council property.

Investigations revealed that in fact only two children lived with the man and the property was not overcrowded. The housing offer was withdrawn.

The man refused to admit that he had lied on his application and took the council to court to try to get the decision overturned. The judge ruled in the council's favour, dismissed the case and awarded the council costs of almost £6,000.

Councillor Craig Collingswood, chairman of the council's audit and risk committee, said that investigating fraud and protecting the public purse was an important priority.

Famous fighters to wing in

Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-2. Rebuilt by the EADS/Messerschmitt Foundation, Germany with a Daimler-Benz DB 605 engine as a G-6

FAMOUS fighter planes are coming to the RAF Cosford Museum as part of preparations for the centenary of the Royal Air Force in 2018.

New arrivals will be brought in before the end of the year. They include the last surviving example of a Wolverhampton-built Boulton Paul Defiant Mk 1 and a rare Messerschmitt BF109G-2, part of the Luftwaffe's fearsome armoury.

Others are a Junkers Ju 88R-1, a sub-type of the most versatile German combat aircraft of the Second World War, and the Gloster Gladiator 1, the first bi-plane to feature an enclosed cockpit.

All four aircraft will go on public display in the museum's War in the Air hangar. The de Havilland Tiger Moth II, one of the world's most famous training aircraft which provided the majority of RAF pilots with their elementary flying training during the Second World War, will also be coming to Cosford.

The Tiger Moth will be displayed next to the de Havilland Chipmunk and Scottish Aviation Bulldog T Mk 1 in Hangar 1.

The Westland Lysander III, the only surviving Special Duties variant of this aircraft will be heading to the museum's Conservation Centre for an in-depth inspection and condition assessment.

The planes will be moving to Cosford from the RAF Museum in London. Curators are keen to spread the story of the RAF in the build up to its 100th anniversary in two years' time.

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Rise in calls to child abuse hotline

THE number of calls to a charity helpline from children in the Black Country has risen dramatically amid increasing reports of neglect and physical abuse

Phone contacts to the NSPCC have shot up by almost two-thirds in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall over the past three years. The figures concern calls considered serious enough to be referred to social services and the police.

A breakdown shows 831 contacts were passed on to the four Black Country council areas in 2015-16, a 64 per cent increase from the 504 in 2012-13.

Refusal

The charity said the figures reflected both an increasing refusal by the public to turn a blind eye to child abuse and a growing demand for their services.

The NSPCC 24-hour helpline figures reveal referrals in the Black Country due to physical abuse rose from 163 in 2012-13 to 258 in 2015-16, a rise of 58 per cent. Contacts from the public about neglect of a child rose from 219 in 2012-13 to 359 last year, up 64 per cent. Calls about emotional abuse more than doubled in the Black Country boroughs – from 47 in 2012-13 to 110 in 2015-16. Contact the helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Hospice wins praise in latest inspection

THE Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge has been praised following its latest inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

The hospice has been rated 'Good' across all areas in the Commission (CQC) report published on October 1.

It comes as the hospice on Hagley Road prepares for a £3 million redevelopment.

Stevan Jackson, chief executive officer of the Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "The excellent report of the CQC, following their detailed and systematic assessment of the quality of care delivered at Mary Stevens Hospice, reflects superbly well on each and every person who helps us, in so many ways, to provide the very best palliative and end-of-life care

"It gives me a great deal of pride to note that the CQC did not single out a single area where the team could perform better. Nevertheless, the trustees – led so ably by our chairman, John Woodall – and the senior leadership team are determined to strive harder to provide even better care for many more people in Dudley metropolitan borough in the future."

Responsive

Following the CQC inspection on May 10 and 11, the hospice was found to be safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led.

The 20-page report wrote in-depth about the work of the hospice, the capability of the staff and the experience of patients and visitors, with special praise reserved for the management systems and processes in place across all areas of the organisation.

The report states: "People told us staff were very caring, kind and receptive to their needs. People's independence was encouraged and their privacy and dignity protected.

"Staff worked hard to provide lasting and memorable experiences for people and their family members so that they experienced compassionate care.

"Leadership was strong and consistently looked at ways to promote the provision of palliative and end of life care."

The hospice is currently undertaking its biggest project and fund-raising drive since opening in 1991, in order to increase capacity and upgrade facilities, including an overnight family apartment, which will offer families the opportunity to stay at the hospice during a critical time.

The CQC report is available to read in full at www.cqc.org.uk and you can find out more about the care provided at www.marystevenshospice.co.uk website.

Family's sunflower surprise

Yvie-Shai Whitehouse at home in Coseley with her strange sunflowers

AN ODD sunflower grown in a Black Country garden has left folk bewildered.

The unusual flower with multiple heads has sprung up at the Coseley home of 11-year-old Yvie-Shai Whitehouse, who planted a seed she was given by a friend.

The plant had started to grow as one would expect in the garden of the Chad Road property. But on their return from holiday they were taken aback by what had emerged from the flower bed.

Yvie-Shai said: "Everyone thinks its fantastic. It is taller than me and has lots of flowers. My best friend Hattie gave me the seed. Her flower died because of slugs and she thinks mine is fantastic."

She has taken a picture into her class at Bramford Primary School. Her dad Jez said: "I've never seen anything like it." Her mum Sonia added: "We went on holiday and when we got back we couldn't believe how it had grown."

According to the National Sunflower Association, there are varieties which have more than one bloom but are usually found in North America.

Open Day

Saturday 5th November 2016
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Did you know if two pieces of metal touch in space, they become stuck together?

This process is called cold welding.

Provoking Thought

VI Dudley Sixth for A levels

OK Justin, I have to admit that I am now a Belieber too

Justin Bieber
Barclaycard Arena

BIEBER fever has taken hold in Birmingham where over two nights some 30,000 fans of the 22-year-old pop megastar were filling the city centre arena.

But don't scream whilst Justin is talking. He doesn't like it.

"Screaming is abhorrent," the multi-million-album selling Canadian icon of cool told the fans on Monday night when his call for hush was not fully respected.

"Do me a favour, relax for a second. Take a chill pill," said the baggy-panted pop phenomenon, brow briefly furrowed under backward baseball cap. "It doesn't feel like I am being heard."

It was one of a couple of odd moments, the other being his elongated drum solo which seemed strangely out of place in such a hi-tech state-of-the-art spectacle of a show. And what a show. High definition graphics meant it was sometimes hard to work out what was real and what was digital trickery. This was a concert for the Xbox One generation.

Bieber himself popped up and down like a jack in the box via various trap doors and elevators after appearing first in a perspex box scrawling the title of the opening song, Mark My Words, on the walls. Then came Where Are U Now with Bieber joining his team of gymnastic dancers in the jerky, semi-robotic dance routine that has become his trademark.

Mark My Words – the pop star arrived inside a transparent box

Highlights

There were 21 songs in his one hour and 45 minute set, built around an intermission that seemed designed to sell more merchandise with a Birmingham only T-shirt available in the break for £30. Most came from latest album Purpose, which gives this 123 concert tour its name.

But a couple of old favourites got some of the biggest cheers, including Boyfriend and a revamped version of his breakthrough hit Baby. Since he last performed the latter in Brum, Bieber has grown up fast, gone bad boy and then reformed, gaining millions more fans and about 50 tattoos.

He proved he can sing with an acoustic interlude, sat upon a red velvet couch and strummed his guitar for a version of Major Lazer's Cold Water and his recent hit Love Yourself.

Other highlights included Company, where Bieber and co took off over the arena somersaulting on a trampoline, and the tick-tock terrific What Do You Mean?

The vocals were a blend of live and recorded, apparent when Bieber lowered the mic but his voice carried on.

I don't think that bothered the fans at all. They want a dancing and singing star and recreating the machined-tooled sound of the Purpose album leaves no room for gasps.

He did get briefly philosophical on the subject of Purpose, before plugging the merch one last time before the encore. Sorry, sent fans home happy just after 11pm. I know his Purpose, to make shed loads of money and brilliantly catchy R&B flavoured pop songs.

He does it very well. I've seen his fate and I am a Belieber.

He's back in the West Midlands to play the Genting Arena at the NEC on October 24 but that's sold out too.

Leon Burakowski

Justin Bieber performs at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, on Monday night in front of more than 15,000 fans

Justin Bieber in dance action – but the vocals carried on

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Variety is spice of life society's Kirsty

Kirsty Aldridge – award-winning member of Halesowen-based Startime Variety, now planning their 50th celebrations

A DEDICATED member of a performing arts society has received an award for the second time.

For the past 15 years Kirsty Aldridge from Netherton has been a valued part of Startime Variety, the Halesowen society which puts on various shows for the community.

After starting off as a dancer with the group when she was just a teenager, Kirsty, now 28, has gone on to take principal roles including in the pantomimes Aladdin and Jack and the Beanstalk.

She is now vice-chair of the society, and this summer Kirsty produced her first show, Startime in their Eyes inspired by the classic Stars in their Eyes TV show.

Following the success of the summer show, Startime held its annual general meeting in September, where Kirsty received the Sheila Darby Award for the second time. The award remembers Sheila Darby was a member of the society from 1972, but passed away aged in her 40s from cancer.

Kirsty also received the Mike Clifford award, named after a long-serving producer at the society who was on hand when she needed any advice.

"It is like a big family at Startime. Everyone is so friendly," said Kirsty. "I love performing and have been dancing since the age of four."

She is also a talented singer,and performs in pubs and clubs. In her day job she is a sales assistant in Sports Direct and also organises children's parties.

She lives on Gloucester Road, Netherton, and has a four-year-old daughter who is showing interest in performing. That would continue the family's close association with Startime, as Kirsty's mum is a member too.

Now the society is gearing up to put on their pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, at The Cornbow Hall in Halesowen from January 18 to 21.

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www.qualitykitchenmakeoversltd.co.uk FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Social worker unit manager for fostering recruitment Jo Roberts with the mayor Councillor Barry Findlay and mayoress Margaret Findlay

Mayor backs campaign for extra foster carers

THE Mayor of Wolverhampton has supported the latest campaign to recruit more foster carers in the city.

He joined existing foster carers and social workers at Fostering for Wolverhampton's latest roadshow in Queen Square on Fostering to give his backing to the new Best Thing About Fostering campaign.

Launched by Wolverhampton Council last month, the appeal highlights the real-life experiences of carers in Wolverhampton who have shared what they think the best thing about being a foster carer is.

Mayor, Councillor Barry Findlay said: "I was delighted to meet some of our dedicated foster carers and hear about the fantastic support they give to vulnerable children and young people in Wolverhampton.

"More than 200 people, including individuals and couples, already foster for Wolverhampton, but we always need more and I would encourage people who have ever considered fostering to seize the moment and find out more about this vitally important role."

Reasons

There are lots of reasons why people decide to foster, and the Best Thing campaign showcases some of them. One carer said the best thing about fostering was seeing her foster child "blossom into a lovely little boy", while another said it was "seeing their confidence increase and their behaviour improve at school".

One carer said the best thing about fostering was "that these children have been able to experience a loving, supportive family environment" while another said it had "made us go back to our family values."

Foster carers can be single, married or in a relationship and help and support is available 24 hours a day. Placements can be anything from a few days to a number of years, and they receive a regular, tax exempt allowance to cover the cost of bringing up the child.

Support

Councillor Val Gibson, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "Our foster carers receive six months' support from experienced carers who will guide them through the system, and we also provide intensive support for the first six weeks of a placement and every month thereafter.

"The Fostering for Wolverhampton team are keen to speak to people who are interested in fostering, so please contact them as soon as possible."

For more information about fostering for Wolverhampton, please visit www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/fostering, call 01902 551133 or search Fostering for Wolves on Facebook.

Alternatively, meet members of the team at the next Fostering Friday event, taking place in Queen Square on November 4 from 10am-3pm, or the next fostering information evening, taking place at Molineux Stadium on November 16 from 6.30-8pm.

Home decor changes offer chance to be creative

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis

I HAVE been married for over 30 years and am surprised at how homewares and our need for home decoration has changed so dramatically in that time.

I remember my father advising that we buy a 'G Plan' sofa that would last for at least 25 years as was the way when they were married. We did buy an expensive suite, often used a trampoline by our young son, and in no time at all Ikea were selling fabulous product for a tenth of the price.

Today we, as a nation, change our room décor, including furniture and accessories every few years for considerably less than the price of that G Plan sofa!

The new trends can be integrated into our lives so easily, and I have friends who decorate their home on a revolving basis, constantly updating and changing their living environment room after room, including kitchen, bathrooms and their outdoor space.

The new shabby chic look with its upcycled theme involves a search for the right items to adorn with the latest paint effect and colour and the second hand shops and charity shops have increased their prices to benefit from the popularity, the DIY shops selling every possible paint, trim and handle to complete the look.

The newsagent's shelves offer a plethora of magazines to persuade us to inspire our lives, already the Christmas issues suggest decoration for the season of goodwill.

Theme

I am certainly planning to accessorise my bathroom for the benefit of our guests! Many people I know theme their house and Christmas tree in the seasons trend colour.

This week I have walked around Ikea and watched the young and old design their homes as they pass every possible piece of furniture and toning accessory, filling that iconic yellow bag with many unrequired items.

We see the newest of ideas on the television daily, the reality shows such as Grand Designs, Fill your house for free and DIY SOS bring us the seasonal colours and trends and magazine shoots in the fashion publications use the latest furniture and styles in the backgrounds.

Homeware designers follow the same trend forecasting used for the fashion industry, bringing ideas from around the world and the different cultures to touch our lives with sumptuous adornments.

Our parents had less external influences, they had less money to spend on their homes and bought to last, teaming the items with those pieces handed down through the family, items of value, those items we avoid in our contemporary lives. There was so much less on offer to them.

The most important aspect to our living space should be comfort, coziness, relaxation and restfulness, whatever makes you happy in that personal space. This years trend should be from your own inspirations.

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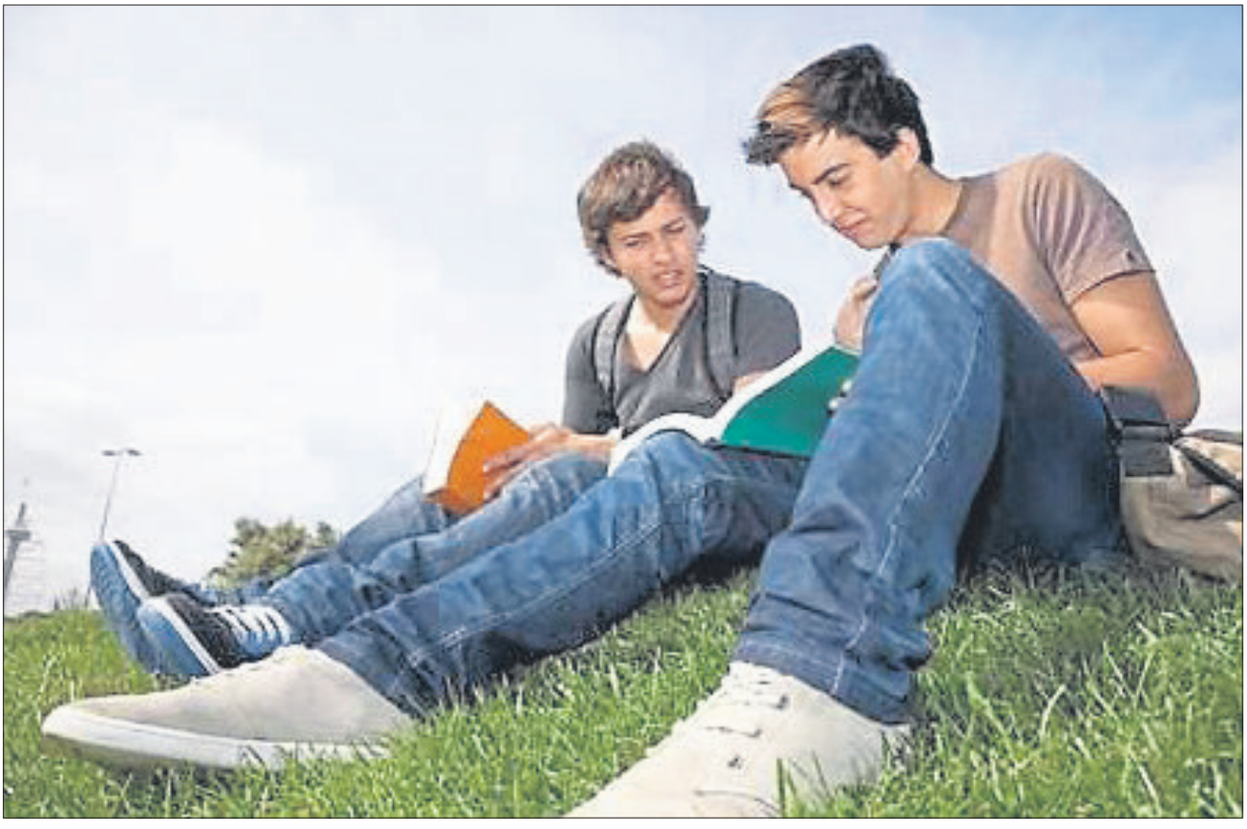

One-to-one support in a family setting is the best way to help children with a care background overcome their issues and deal with their past, says Foster Care Associates

Bridging the gap with role as foster parents

Short-term placements are available

AS parents see their children leave home and make their first steps towards independent living at university, a leading independent fostering agency says that becoming a foster carer is a natural transition for many parents once their own children have flown the nest.

By Sophie Madden

Foster Care Associates (FCA) says that this stage in life could be an ideal opportunity for many parents to consider fostering – turning what to many is a feeling of emptiness into a positive experience, whilst making a huge difference to a young person's life.

Commonly known as empty nest syndrome it describes the mixed emotions experienced by many parents when their children leave home – either to go to university or just move on to independent living.

With an estimated 9,070 new foster carers needed in 2016, FCA is keen to hear from experienced parents who may find that they now have the extra time and room to offer a secure and loving home a to a young person in need.

Mark Costello, chief executive officer of FCA, said: "Becoming a foster carer takes resilience, patience and understanding, something that parents of older teenagers have in spades, along with a wealth of life experience.

Issues

"Although some parents view their children leaving home as a liberating time, many find it hard to suddenly have no children at home who need their care, and have a difficult time adjusting to an empty home – this is why we'd urge people to consider fostering.

"We've been working with children and young people for 21 years and our experience shows that one-to-one support in a family setting is the best way to help children with a care background overcome their issues and deal with their past."

For those parents who are only able to provide care during term time FCA offer short term fostering placements for children and young people who require temporary care.

Often this is because their families are unable to look after them during a particular time.

This could be because their parents or guardians are unwell, they're unable to cope at that time, or the child is waiting to be adopted.

FCA provides ongoing comprehensive support to all foster carers including training, a financial allowance, access to carer support groups and organised family activities – all contributing factors as to why FCA placements are 22 per cent more stable than the national average.

For more information on becoming a foster carer with FCA, and to find out more about forthcoming regional events call 0800 022 4330 or visit the website www.thefca.co.uk.

Ploughing a furrow through the competition

Ted Richards on his 1958 Power Major tractor at the Langley Hall farm ploughing competition at Lower Penn

AN annual ploughing match saw tractors take on horses to be the best.

The event at Langley Mill, in Lower Penn, attracted around 300 spectators.

The competition first began back in 1996 and involves traditional ploughing skills.

The match, organised by farmer and South Staffordshire councillor Robert Reade, is split into eight categories. These range from horse-drawn ploughs to vintage tractors and man-powered horticultural ploughing where a person walks behind a two wheel plough. The ploughing is judged on the uniformity and appearance of the furrows.

Councillor Reade said: "It's so nice to see such a tradition carried out and long may it continue.

"I have a training school for the horses so it's great to see them work well and be so reliable after training them to pull and stand still during the ploughing.

"As long as I am fit enough I shall host the competition, I love hosting itevery year," he added.

Horses Betsie and Alfie with Brian Smith

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

Perfect for pots, with wide range of colours

While you may have already planted many spring-flowering bulbs, tulips are among those which do better when planted later on in the autumn. Hannah Stephenson looks at how to achieve success with tulips in containers.

OF all the bulbs, tulips are probably the most varied in size and colour, ranging from dainty dwarf specimens to frilly, feathery forms and stand-up-straight majestic types.

They don't need planting as early as narcissi or snowdrops.

In fact, tulips shouldn't be planted before the end of October, as early planting will result in soft growth which is susceptible to the fungal disease, tulip fire.

If you're growing them in pots, generally they are best grown alone because they don't survive a typical summer without being lifted and dried off after flowering.

If you want a stand-alone colour and type of bulb, consider sowing grass seed on the surface soil once you've planted the bulbs, which will create a swathe of green as the bulbs emerge, avoiding visible empty pockets of soil.

However, you can achieve some gorgeous combinations which could also help hide the unsightly appearance of the bulbs once they have finished flowering and are starting to look straggly.

Pairing

Variegated dwarf ribbon grass, for example, is an excellent pairing with the deep burgundy Tulipa 'Queen of Night'. The grass makes a terrific foil for the almost-black tulip flowers and will last long after the blooms have gone.

If you are planting a single layer of bulbs, fill the pot to within four or five times the depth of the bulb from the top of the pot. You can plant the bulbs closer together in a pot than you would in the ground, leaving them around 1cm apart if they are small tulips, but a bit more space for varieties with larger blooms.

Then fill the rest of the pot with compost, up to around 3cm from the top of the rim. Also, be aware that tall bulbs in shallow containers don't generally succeed.

When planting, the most important thing is that the soil is well drained. Add a handful of grit to multi-purpose compost at planting time and place crocs, small stones or broken pieces of polystyrene plant trays in the base and ensure you have drainage holes in the container.

Stand the pot on feet to stop autumn and winter moisture seeping in upwards from the ground and rotting the bulbs.

In severe winter weather, move the pots closer to the house so they escape the worst of the excess wet and chilling wind. But once the days become slightly warmer in early spring, move them out into the open and don't let the pots dry out or you'll be left with stunted foliage and poor flowers.

Once the bulbs are in full leaf growth, the pots should be watered periodically, when the compost feels dry.

So, which tulips do best in pots? Well, in deep pots you might go for tall varieties such as triumph whose stems grow up to 40cm, flowering in late spring. These include T. 'Prinses Irene', which has glowing orange blooms flamed with purple, and 'Bing Crosby', a scarlet variety.

Shorter single early tulips such as 'Apricot Beauty' also work well in pots, as do taller single late and Darwin tulips including 'World's Favourite', a hot orange-red type, or the lily-flowered T. 'Ballerina', with its vibrant orange flowers which open fully on sunny days.

In fact, most tulips are perfect for pots – just avoid those with weak stems and very heavy flowers which are prone to flopping.

Many bulbs grown in pots can be left in the compost if they are kept completely dry during the dormant period in summer.

A frost-free greenhouse or cold frame is ideal and many gardeners lay the pots on their sides.

Tulips must have a dry rest after flowering, so if you plant summer bedding on top of them which you are intending to regularly water all summer, don't leave the bulbs in the container or they will just rot. You'll need to lift and dry them after they die down and store them safely until late autumn.

Cotoneaster berries provide a burst of colour in the autumn

A terrific choice for low hedging with bright berries

BEST OF THE BUNCH – Cotoneaster

These spreading shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen, make terrific hedges, with simple, small narrow leaves and clusters of small white or pink flowers in spring and summer, followed by showy red, purple or black berries. C. horizontalis is ideal for low hedging, or covering walls or banks, bearing vivid red berries in the autumn and attracting wildlife. C. conspicuous 'Decorus' and C. lacteus are both evergreen varieties producing bright red berries which last into winter. They should be planted in full sun or partial shade in moderately fertile, well-drained soil.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Parsnips

They are among my favourite root vegetables, whether in soups and casseroles, or dipped in finely grated Parmesan or even maple syrup and roasted, as a Sunday lunch accompaniment. Pick a spot in sun or light shade and prepare the soil in autumn, removing stones. A deep, light soil is best for root formation. Rake in a general purpose fertiliser when preparing the seed bed. Seeds should be sown thinly in spring. Be patient, because they are slow to germinate – it can take up to five weeks. To help you remember where they are when you are weeding, sow a quick-growing crop such as radishes among them. Parsnips don't need much looking after. Keep weeding and water if there is a prolonged dry spell. The roots should be ready for lifting when the leaves begin to die down in autumn. They can be left in the ground whatever the weather, so just lift them as you need them. Good varieties include 'Tender and True' and 'Gladiator', said to be resistant to canker, with smooth, tapered roots and ideal for small gardens.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Place dustbins full of water under greenhouse staging. They warm up during the day, releasing their heat at night and act as storage heaters.
2. Plant out hardy primulas raised from seed or divisions.
3. Harvest cobnuts, hazelnuts and filberts when husks begin to yellow, but before they start dropping.
4. Where grass growth is thin and sparse, overseed now with a suitable grass seed mixture.

On the move... shrubs can be tricky customers

By Hannah Stephenson

ARE your borders looking overgrown and overcrowded? If some of your stalwart shrubs and perennials have outgrown their space or simply aren't thriving in their current position, it may be time to move them.

The best time to transplant shrubs is while they are dormant, between late autumn and early spring. Choose a day when the ground isn't frozen or waterlogged.

There's always a risk when you move plants and the larger the plant, the more risk there is that you'll lose it. But there are ways to minimise that risk.

Small herbaceous perennials and compact shrubs are relatively easy to move if you water them thoroughly and then dig them up with as much root as possible, repositioning them somewhere where there's more room or where conditions are more favourable.

Water them in well and keep them well watered during the autumn in the absence of rainfall.

Mature shrubs are harder work to move, but it's best to do it after a bout of rain. Get a friend to help you if the shrub is extremely large.

Shallow

Generally those that move most easily are the ones with fibrous roots – masses of thin roots which remain shallow in the soil.

More problematic to move are those with tap roots, which are much thicker and there are fewer of them. It's difficult to move these without breaking the roots.

First, decide where you are going to replant any large shrubs.

Dig a hole slightly bigger than the root ball of soil is going to be and add organic matter to the soil as well as slow-release fertiliser.

For trauma-free transplanting of large shrubs, first make a wide circle at least 30cm from the shrub with a spade and dig a deep trench following the circle's curve. Use a garden fork to loosen the earth around the ball of the roots, then gently fork the surplus earth from around the roots.

If the stems or branches of the shrub are unwieldy, tie them loosely with garden string so they don't snap off or get damaged during the excavation.

Once the ball of roots has been loosened, dig your spade under the root ball as far as you can, levering gently as you go around the circle.

The aim is to keep as large a root ball attached to the plant as possible.

When you feel the shrub move, tilt it to one side and slide a length of plastic sheeting or sacking underneath the root ball.

Tilt the shrub the other way and manoeuvre the sacking so that it comes underneath the whole root ball, then wrap it up and tie it around the trunk securely, to minimise water loss and keep the root ball and soil intact.

The best time to transplant shrubs is while they are dormant, between late autumn and early spring

Small herbaceous perennials and compact shrubs are easier to move

Get a friend to help you if the shrub is extremely large

Unwrap the sacking and carefully place the shrub in its original depth. There should be a distinct soil mark on the shrub, so it's easy to gauge.

Fill the hole with displaced soil, firm in gently with the ball of your foot to get rid of any air pockets and give it a good soaking.

Water regularly until the plant becomes established and mulch with organic matter. Large shrubs may need support for a year or two. Some plants react better to being moved than others. Those which are easier to move include rhododendron and azalea, hydrangea, hebe, fuchsia, Choisya ternata and forsythia.

Mulch

Peonies don't really like being relocated and it may take a couple of years before they flower again.

Shrubs which don't like being transplanted include ceanothus, berberis, holly, eucalyptus, buddleia, cotoneaster, weigela and lilac.

But even if they suffer leaf fall after moving, don't give up on them because they may come round.

Kitchen time-savers will have you cooking on gas

With viewing figures constantly on the rise it is obvious that The Great British Bake Off series is cooking on gas. It certainly has had a lot of publicity just lately, with all the comings and goings.

It has become a regular topic of conversation and inspires many people to get back into the kitchen and rustle up something special in the safe knowledge that the only person tasting and judging your attempts will be you or your family.

Of course so many viewers are no doubt working mums who don't have a lot of time or energy when they arrive back from work and then have to think about feeding hungry mouths.

Do not despair, I work on the basis that anything that makes your life a bit easier has got to be worth it. With that in mind I flicked through the Lakeland catalogue and picked out a few ways to ease the load.

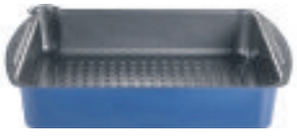
Personally I have always loved my pressure cooker and it cooks the meat to perfection but I spend a lot of time waiting around for it to come up to pressure, for the hiss to reach the right level. So when I saw the Lakeland online information on a microwave pressure cooker I knew it would be worth a try.

Wow! Cooks beautifully, can be left in the microwave while you disappear for a few minutes without it filling the kitchen with steam and is so easy to clean afterwards. I'd definitely give it top marks.

And their collapsible steamer, again using the microwave, yes I not ashamed to say that our microwave does get a bashing, is both a quick and healthy way to cook – no more mushy overcooked veg.

Microwave pressure cooker - £34.99

Collapsible microwave steamer - ñ4.99



Large roasting tin with pouring lip - £13.99

Of course there are occasions when the cooker is needed, especially with roast potatoes. Ever tried pouring the fat or juices out of the roasting tin and all the contents start to tumble into the sink. No more, the Lakeland roasting tray has a corner lip meaning the contents stay in. Far safer then risking getting splashed with hot fat.

But no fear if anything is spilled on the floor just pick up your spray mop. A quick squirt and the floor looks good again. And it can cope with many different surfaces.

No I'm not lazy, but with time-saving products like this around why make life difficult for yourself. Order the catalogue or check out the website, www.lakeland.co.uk for more useful ideas.

Bona mop system - ó6.99

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Don't pre-cook, just drop the courgetti directly into your hot pasta sauce

Coconut milk can be used to make a refreshing dairy-free ice cream

Brush up on must-have skills for modern foodies

By Ella Walker

BBC Good Food magazine has unveiled the 21 must-know skills for modern foodies – and everybody's talking about them.

Here we take a quick look at some of our favourites:

QUICK FRIDGE PICKLES

Ready to eat in a couple of hours, and great for digestive health, these couldn't be simpler. You'll probably already have most of the ingredients you need: salt, sugar, cider vinegar and a couple of aromatics, such as mustard seeds, Sichuan peppercorns and bay leaves. Mix five parts vinegar to one part sugar, plus a pinch of salt, and heat in a saucepan with the aromatics until the sugar has dissolved. Once cool, pour the pickling liquid over your chosen veg in a sterilised jar, seal and chill. They will keep for a week in the fridge.

DEEP-FRIED AVOCADO

Great with a beer, and even better as a veggie substitute for fish tacos, this is a brilliant way to use avocados that refuse to ripen. Mix 150g flour with half a teaspoon of baking powder, half a teaspoon of ground turmeric, a pinch of cayenne and some seasoning, then whisk in 230ml of lager. Slice two avocados into eight (16 slices in total). Season well, dip them in batter, then deep-fry at 180C for around three minutes, until golden.

THE ON-TREND DIP

In a food processor, whizz 200g of feta with 200g of thick Greek yogurt and four tablespoons of olive oil until smooth, then chill. Add herbs, toasted chopped nuts or dried fruit. Serve with veg sticks and flatbread.

THE NEW NEGRONI...

...Is the sbagliato (which means 'gone wrong'). Use sparkling rose in place of gin. Add 25ml of Campari to 100ml of sparkling rose, one tablespoon of vermouth, loads of crushed ice and a slice of orange. For extra flavour, rub the rim of your glass with a strip of orange peel, squeezing to release the oils.

VIBRANT VEGAN PESTO

A good pesto is all about great colour, taste and texture. The healthier option leaves out the Parmesan, so to achieve the umami hit, add one tablespoon of nutritional yeast (available at ocado.com) for a salty, savoury kick. A garlic clove and some good olive oil adds extra flavour. These combinations are our favourites:

1. Large handful of kale and small handful pumpkin seeds.
2. Two roasted yellow peppers, one teaspoon of turmeric and handful toasted macadamia nuts.
3. Small handfuls of parsley, mint and toasted pistachios.

PERFECT POLENTA

Polenta is a comfort food and a good alternative to mash, so make sure it's rich and creamy. Add milk – roughly 200ml to every 600ml water. Be generous with the salt (at least two teaspoons per 150g of polenta), and the butter too – no skimping!

SUPER-SMOOTH HOUMOUS

Tip the chickpeas into a big bowl, cover with cold water, then lift them out of the water and rub them between your palms to remove the skins. Lower your hands into the water – the skins should float to the surface and the chickpeas sink. Discard the skins and make your houmous as normal.

BALANCED GRAIN BOWLS

Whether you call them grain, nourish or Buddha bowls, the idea is that half of it is filled with veg, one-quarter is made up of grains and one-quarter protein, such as chickpeas, roast chicken or feta. Make sure your dressing is zingy – lime, harissa and honey works well – and that there's plenty of texture. Reserve a few chickpeas to roast in spices for the topping, or fry some seeds in a little soy sauce for a savoury hit.

CRACKING COURGETTI

Don't pre-cook courgetti as you would spaghetti – drop the courgetti directly into your hot pasta sauce and toss together until it has just softened, but retains a little bite.

EGG-FREE MAYO

Don't throw away your aquafaba (chickpea water) when you drain the can. Put three tablespoons of chickpea water, one heaped teaspoon of Dijon mustard, half a garlic clove, a generous squeeze of lemon juice and 150ml of light flavoured oil, such as grapeseed, into a high-sided jar or bowl. Use a stick blender to blend to an emulsion – this will make around 300ml. Chill until required.

DAIRY-FREE CREAM

For a dairy-free substitute for whipped cream, put stabilizer-free coconut milk (check the label) in the fridge for at least eight hours – once the cream has become solid, scoop off the thick top layer and beat with an electric whisk for a few minutes until you have lovely soft peaks. Add a bit of icing sugar to sweeten it, if you like.

Tuck into a Buddha bowl – half of it is filled with veg, one-quarter is made up of grains and one-quarter protein

You can use chick-pea water to whip up a tasty mayonnaise

The on-trend dip uses feta cheese and Greek yogurt

Keep germs off the menu for school lunchboxes

It's back to school for millions of children across the country and loving parents are packing them off with lunch boxes full of goodness. However, new research suggests they could unknowingly be packing them full of harmful bacteria too. ELLA WALKER reports.

NEARLY three quarters (73 per cent) of fabric lunch boxes tested were found to contain mould counts of up to 950 colony forming units (CFU) per 10 cm squared, according to the latest research by e-cloth.

If left these could continue to spore, causing health problems such as itchy eyes, migraines, eczema, coughs and asthma as well as aspergillosis; a more serious condition that can affect those with weakened immune systems.

More alarming however was the presence of Staphylococci (20 per cent), in particular, Staphylococcus Aureus (580 CFU in one case) and Enterococci (20 per cent) – bacteria that is usually found inside our bodies rather than on food.

Staphylococci is common and around 1 in 3 people carry the bacteria harmlessly. Similarly, Enterococci are normally found in a person's gut or bowel without causing a problem. However, the NHS warn that eating food contaminated with either of these bacteria can lead to serious cases of food poisoning.

These bacteria are often found on frequently use surfaces (such as door handles, toilet flushes, desk and kitchen surfaces), which have been touched by unwashed hands, particularly following bathroom use.

The tests also found that Yeast was present in over two thirds (66 per cent) of lunch boxes tested, and high counts of up to 920 CFU of Enterobacteriaceae were also found hiding under our ham sandwiches.

Laurence Smith, commercial director of e-cloth said: "The high volumes of non food-borne bacteria suggests that we aren't washing our hands before we pack or eat from our lunch boxes.

"It also shows that we aren't cleaning them properly either, which is allowing mould to spore and bacteria to grow."

"They might look clean, with their shiny interior, and often, all we'll do is shake out the crumbs but there is an underworld of invisible germs growing that we all need to be aware of."

Vicki Bates, founder of The Green Cleaner, said:

"Whist it might be alarming to discover this bacteria in the lunch boxes of our loved ones, there is a really simple fix to the problem. A thorough clean after every use is all that's needed. I wash my son's lunch bag every evening with an e-cloth in hot soapy water and leave it to dry naturally overnight.

"It's important not to use chemical cleaning sprays on anything our children and especially their food touches. There is lots of research suggesting these sprays are very damaging to our health. The best thing to do is keep it natural. If you wouldn't eat or drink it, then my advice is, don't use it."

VICKI'S TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX

WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE YOU EAT – It might sound like obvious advice but bacteria can easily transfer from our skin onto our food. Soap and water is all you need.

CLEAN AFTER EVERY USE – bacteria and mould thrive in this type of environment and will easily spread if you don't remove them.

USE WHITE VINEGAR – Use neat to naturally disinfect your lunchbox or dilute with water. Then just wipe clean.

USE BICARBONATE OF SODA – Sprinkle it into your lunchbox and leave overnight – it's a great deodoriser

DON'T USE THE WASHING MACHINE – Most of the fabric lunchboxes will have care instructions on them, it's likely that the thermos layer will get damaged if you put them on a hot wash and there is no guarantee that you will have removed all of the germs using this method.

DON'T USE BABY WIPES – Whilst the lunchboxes might look clean, these wipes are not designed for removing bacteria.

DON'T USE A DRY TEA TOWEL / DISH CLOTH – It might make your lunch box look clean but all you're doing is moving the bacteria around.

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Rock on

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Omid Djalili

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Bonehead remembers being there, even now

They were the biggest band on the planet – in 1996, Oasis had the world at their feet.

They were the acme of rock 'n' roll. They drank champagne, snorted cocaine, hung out with supermodels and flicked the finger to waiting paparazzi.

Prime ministers and Hollywood A-listers wanted to be their mates. Their two Knebworth gigs held 250,000 fans but received ticket applications from 2.6 million. No band, other than The Beatles during the 1960s, had had such a profound effect on the nation's culture and psyche. So when Oasis booked Abbey Road Studios to record their third album, Be Here Now, the stakes could not have been higher. After the success of (What's The Story) Morning Glory, they had everything to lose and nothing to gain.

At the time of its release, Be Here Now was the most popular record of all time. It received unanimous and truly amazing praise from critics. It shipped 424,000 copies in the UK on the first day of its release and 696,000 by the end of the week, making it the fastest-selling album in British history. And though history has been unkind to the record, re-evaluating its artistic merit, it remains a sensationally popular record. Lauded as being the most effusively praised record since Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Be Here Now was a unique recording.

Difficult

Rhythm guitarist Paul 'Bonehead' Arthurs recalls: "The sessions were difficult. We'd reached the height at that point and we couldn't make a move. Wherever we went, there was paparazzi and the whole media circus. All eyes were on us."

It could have been so different. There was a moment, at the start of Be Here Now, when Oasis could have exceeded expectation – when they could have justified the hype.

The album is now being remastered and reissued in October to commemorate 20 years since they started to record it. It will include the original demos laid down for the album, and these are what Bonehead remembers fondly. "Noel brought back the demos from Mustique," he reminisces. "They were incredible, they weren't usual Noel demos. Normally he'd send them with one or two acoustic guitars and a vocal and it was great. But he came back from Mustique and there were keyboards, bass, harmonies – they were fully fledged songs. It was really f***ing exciting.

"And then we were booked into Abbey Road, which is iconic. But from there, it just went downhill. The papparazi were breaking into the studio, looking for drugs, looking for a story. I was staying in an apartment with Owen, the producer, which was next door. We were living and sleeping there. But we had to put a disguise on before going to the shops in the morning."

On Definitely Maybe and (What's The Story) Morning Glory, Oasis had been able to switch off and focus when it came to recording. They were afforded no such luxury for Be Here Now. "Our sacred space was the studio.

"No matter how big or small you are, you shut the doors and get on with it. But the media circus was always in the back of our mind. Owen and I were in the apartment next door and it should have been incredible.

"But when I wanted to nip to the pub with Owen for a pint I was told I wasn't allowed. We couldn't do it. We had orders from the office. There were paps outside."

Scrutiny

The record was made when the band were on the crest of a wave. They had no complaints about the fuss and scrutiny that surrounded them. They were living out their dreams. "It was mind-blowing at the time. It all happened so fast," adds Bonehead. "It's what we lived and breathed and what we wanted to do from the start. We wanted it more than anyone, we believed more than anyone. But poor old Liam would open his bedroom curtains and 40 f***ing cameras would be snapping away. I think he dealt with it admirably. I think he still does."

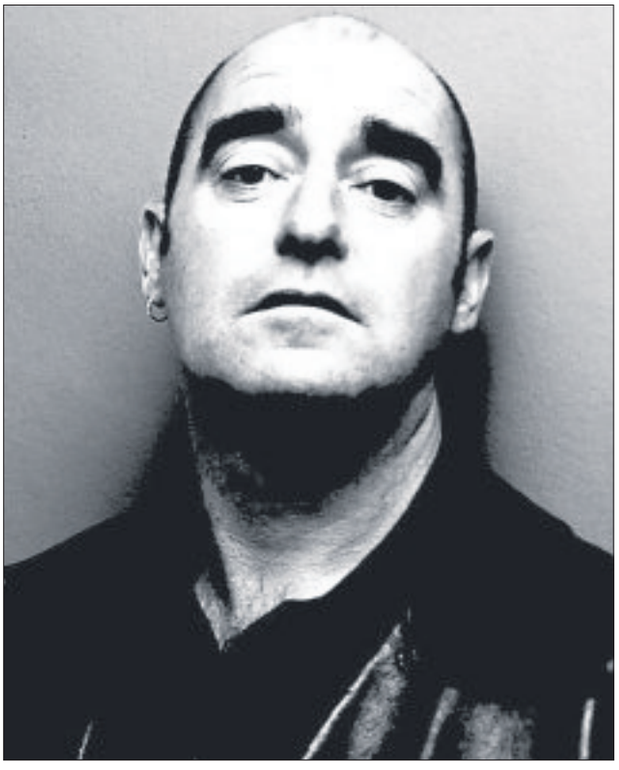
Be Here Now was the definition of ambition. While other bands were making three-and-a-half-minute Britpop songs, Oasis were recording nine-minute epics like All Around The World with 40-piece orchestras.

"Noel had that song from back at The Boardwalk, in Manchester. It could have gone on the first album but he said he wouldn't release it until he had a 40-piece orchestra. And by the time of Be Here Now, we could afford that. Now there's a man with a vision. He knew, even before the first album, where he was going.

Professional

"You know, the album eventually got slagged off. And as the years go by, even Noel has slagged it. But I personally love it. My Big Mouth, Magic Pie – what great tunes." Drugs were as common as tea, though Bonehead tended to steer clear.

"Yeah, there's all the drugs. And if Noel says he was doing a lot of cocaine then he was doing a lot of cocaine. But one thing's for sure, Noel wasn't snorting 10 minutes before he was putting a guitar part down, he wasn't doing it before he went on stage. We were too professional for that. I certainly wasn't doing cocaine. On a Friday night I'd go home to my family while the others partied."



The Be Here Now album is being re-released

As a live act, there was no-one better in the world. During the mid-to-late-90s Oasis were on fire. That meant they never had a day off, which led to inevitable problems.

"There were loads of incidents, Liam would be like, 'f*** this, you can f***ing sing, I'm not doing this gig. I'm going to go and buy a house'. From day one to Knebworth, it was constant, man. In hindsight, maybe we should have taken a break.

"There should have been time to buy a car, have a holiday or buy a house. But we didn't. We kept going and going and going. We didn't complain. But s*** happens on tour.

"Generally you're big boys and it's forgotten the next morning. I had a good relationship with everyone. And I'm closer to Liam now than I've ever been in my life. I always used to say I was the rhythm guitarist and tour psychiatrist. If there was a little fallout when we were hurling down the motorway, I'd be the one pulling Noel and Liam apart and telling them to get over it and sit down. I always did jump in."

Iconic

Bonehead remembers the colossal nature of Knebworth – the iconic gigs that recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. Flying around the site by helicopter showed him the magnitude of the gig. "It was massive. It was enormous. Just walking on stage and hearing the crowd: I'll never forget that. Then John Squire joining us for Champagne Supernova was a total buzz. I was a fan-boy on stage when John Squire came on.

"When I first heard the demo for Champagne Supernova, I cried. I'm a Cancerian, so I'm pretty weepy. I'm nearly crying now. Noel had the song and he played it. We'd had a few beers. It was amazing."

It's been 20 years since the start of Be Here Now and Bonehead's had time to take stock. When Oasis were huge, he didn't dwell. Life moved too quickly for him to think. The safest place was in the eye of the hurricane.

"We didn't have a laptop. We couldn't Google ourselves or look on Twitter so we couldn't see what was going on. We didn't even have mobile phones. We were just hurtling round the world doing it and leaving this trail behind us.

Brothers – Noel and Liam Gallagher

"I didn't really realise how big it got. It really took me two years after leaving the band to work it out. I got my head round it in 2001/2 – that was when I realised it. Before that, it was a rollercoaster, let's go for it."

He's in touch with Liam every day. "I'm very close to him. We try to get away and have a weekend in Europe or go and have a week away."

He left when he knew he could no longer give it 100 per cent. "We were recording Standing on the Shoulders of Giants in France," he said. "It should have been the best time ever but it just felt a bit flat to me. There wasn't that spark. You couldn't be in that band and not give 100 per cent. Anything less, you had to go. I wasn't going to lie. I sat down and said 'it's time to go'. I've never regretted it. I just wanted to spend a bit of time with my family."

By Andy Richardson

The Million Dollar Quartet rock again

ROCK 'n' roll show Million Dollar Quartet is based on the true story of when Sun Records boss Sam Phillips brought together Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins in the same studio.

That impromptu jam session in December 1956 represented probably the ultimate rock supergroup featuring the founders and icons of rock 'n' roll, who also went on to energise the country music scene.

Staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday, the show will star Jason Donovan (himself no stranger to pop music fame) as the 'Father of Rock 'n' Roll', Sam Phillips, the man who launched several rock greats on the road to fame.

Million Dollar Quartet – recreating the night when rock icons jammed together

Legendary

The West End and Broadway show takes the audience inside the Memphis studio and brings to light an extraordinary story of broken promises, secrets and the poignant once-in-a-lifetime celebration of four friends.

Written by Tony Award nominees Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux, Million Dollar Quartet brings that legendary night to life featuring a score of hits including Blue Suede Shoes, Hound Dog, I Walk The Line, Great Balls of Fire, That's All Right, Folsom Prison Blues and Memories Are Made Of This.

Pop hit-maker turned stage star Jason Donovan said: "These songs are so iconic of the era and they relate not just to that period but to music today. It's the foundations of music all around the world in every genre.

"I thought the music of that era was outstanding, it's fun. It was sort of a rebellious period. There's some big characters. Essentially the story of Sun Records is an incredible music industry story about one man who took all these acts to the world."

And there is a local twist in that almost exactly ten years to the day that the session was recorded, 'The Killer' himself, Jerry Lee Lewis played a concert at Birmingham Hippodrome.

News fuels Omid show

AWARD-WINNING comedian and actor Omid Dhalili is coming to Wolverhampton as part of a massive 108-date UK tour of his brand new show Schmuck For A Night.

Of trying to make sense of the world around him in Schmuck For A Night, Omid said: "It'll be so current sometimes audiences won't laugh until they get home and turn on the TV."

As a stand-up and actor, Omid's credits range from Hollywood movies to productions on the West End stage. He has starred in films such as varied as Shaun the Sheep Movie, Mr Nice, Gladiator, Sex And The City 2, The Mummy and David Baddiel's The Infidel, in which Omid had the starring role.

He has also just been cast in Disney's new live-action production of The Nutcracker, which he will be filming alongside the tour. On TV recently, Omid has been seen in the BBC Four series Going Forward with Jo Brand, as well as in Dickensian for BBC1 and Stan Lee's Lucky Man for Sky1.

Documentary

Omid has also produced the acclaimed documentary We Are Many, about the global anti-war demonstrations that took place in 800 cities on February 15 2003. This August he produced an Edinburgh Fringe show called Iraq Out & Loud, which saw almost 1,500 people read out the Chilcot Report for 24 hours a day, over 12 days.

He is performing at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Saturday, and returns to the region to play Redditch Palace Theatre on November 4, Worcester's Huntingdon Hall on November 15 and Oakengates Theatre in Telford on January 18.

The Exorcist brings Halloween terror

BIRMINGHAM Rep has assembled a powerful cast for a new stage version of The Exorcist from tomorrow (Friday) to November 5.

The play by John Pielmeier is drawn from William Peter Blatty's novel, on which the double Oscar winning movie was based.

Peter Bowles (from TV's To The Manor Born) plays exorcist Father Merrin, called to help a young girl, Regan. Jenny Seagrove (from Judge John Deed) plays Regan's mother and Adam Garcia is the young priest who finds himself in a duel with the devil with Regan's soul at stake. It's for over 18s only with scenes and language that may shock.

It's Heaven, Divine or relearn your ABC

THERE is an 1980s nostalgia this week with Heaven 17 and ABC both in Birmingham.

Glen Gregory and Martyn Ware will perform Heaven 17's Penthouse and Pavement album in full and reactivate off-shoot group British Electric Foundation at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Friday).

Martin Fry's ABC will be performing The Lexicon of Love and songs from its recent sequel at the Symphony Hall on Monday, the same night Neil Hannon's The Divine Comedy play Birmingham Town Hall. Or get up to date with JBs on Monday–Jake Bugg at O2 Academy or Justin Bieber at Genting Arena.

Minecraft fun and games with Dan

HE is one of the biggest names in the world – if you're into video game Minecraft. Now YouTube sensation DanTDM is coming to Birmingham with his smash hit brand of gaming chat.

The 24-year-old from Wellingborough has matinee and evening shows at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday and both are likely to be sold out.

Dan 'The Diamond Minecraft' Middleton has a YouTube channel with around 14 million subscribers where he posts his comic commentary videos, plus tips and advice for gamers. He said: "You can expect some custom-made TDM games and audience participation."

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

CHOICE

Helen Skelton

The School That Got Teens Reading (BBC2, 8pm)

Documentary charting one Lancashire school's efforts to inspire reluctant teenagers to take up reading for pleasure. Despite receiving otherwise outstanding Ofsted reports, Ripley Academy in Lancaster has been struggling to engage its pupils in one of the most important academic skills. Having exhausted every other technique across hundreds of books, the staff turn to comedian Javone Prince and Blue Peter's Helen Skelton for help in convincing their most reluctant readers to take the plunge.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities.

6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. The battle for the Glitterball Trophy continues as Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman return to the Strictly Come Dancing ballroom for more dance-floor exhibitions. As ever, the 11 remaining couples each take to the floor in a bit to impress not only Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood, but also the viewers at home, who will get a chance to have their say once the judges have delivered their verdict. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm.

8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. New series. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Gaby Roslin.

9.10 Casualty. Robyn arrives at work in a state of panic, having failed to find out where Glen has gone. When David later finds her in agony in the toilets, it seems she might be about to lose her baby. Meanwhile, Elle offers Ethan two tickets to the hospital awards night. Caleb asks to take both off his hands so he can take Alicia, but Ethan is quick to spot a love rival, and refuses. He plucks up the courage to ask her to go with him instead – but it remains to be seen whether she'll agree.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream.

12.20 Film: Rogue. (2007) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Flight for Freedom. (1943) **7.55** Coast. (R) **8.25 Film:** Wonder Man. (1945) **10.00** Natural World: Heligan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **11.00** Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Ingrid Bergman: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.00 Film:** Notorious. (1946) **3.40** Flog It! **4.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Michael Cockerell witnesses battles breaking out over the future of the House as Speaker John Bercow runs into trouble with his own plans for reforming it. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. The platoon plans to re-enact the battle between St George and the dragon as part of the Wings for Victory fundraising effort – unaware the ARP wardens have the same idea. (R)

8.00 The School That Got Teens Reading. Documentary charting a Lancashire school's efforts to inspire reluctant pupils to get into the reading habit, with help from comedian Javone Prince and Blue Peter's Helen Skelton.

9.00 Film: The Invisible Woman. (2013) Premiere. A Victorian former actress recalls her secret relationship with Charles Dickens. Fact-based period drama, directed by and starring Ralph Fiennes, with Felicity Jones.

10.45 Artsnight: The Man Booker Prize 2016. David Baddiel introduces this year's Man Booker Prize shortlist, while Mariella Frostrup, Val McDermid and George "the Poet" Mpanga meet some of the nominated authors.

11.15 Film: Revolutionary Road. (2008) A married couple live a picture-perfect life on the surface, but in truth feel stifled by their situation. Sam Mendes' 1950s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.

1.05 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **2.05 Film:** Renoir. (2012) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled! **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Looped. **8.30** DC Super Hero Girls: Super Hero High. **9.05** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Cash Trapped. (R) **1.30** Puppy Secrets: The First Six Months. (R) **2.30** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Rufus Hound, Nadia Sawalha and JB Gill answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

8.00 The X Factor. The stakes get ever higher as the remaining acts progress through to the third live round. As ever, each of the would-be stars is called to perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Louis Walsh and Sharon Osbourne, before Dermot O'Leary opens the public vote, giving the millions of viewers the opportunity to decide who they want to see returning next week. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Cold Feet stars James Nesbitt, John Thomson and Fay Ripley, who chat about the successful revival of the drama series. Jonathan also chats to comedian Joe Lycett, and Phil Collins, who will be performing in the studio.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Carry On Cruising. (1962) The captain of a cruise ship is less than impressed with the bungling antics of five new recruits who have replaced his regular crew. Comedy, with Sid James.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship. **7.05** Motor Sport: Caterham. **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races from Doncaster, Cheltenham and Newbury. **4.20** Four in a Bed. **4.55** My Kitchen Rules UK. **5.50** The Crystal Maze SU2C Celebrity Special. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship. Cameras follow the multi-million-dollar expedition that discovered the Victorian ship HMS Erebus, intact and upright on the Arctic sea floor in September 2014. The story unfolds in the freezing Arctic, where search vessels battled with heavy sea-ice that threatened to stop the search entirely, to the dramatic chain of events that led to the historic discovery. (R)

8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. Tony follows the Ridgeway from the Wiltshire Downs, through Berkshire and Oxfordshire, finally arriving on the banks of the Thames. Along the way, he visits a world-famous stone circle and explores an ancient burial chamber that is older than the pyramids, follows in the tracks of Celtic chariots, and discovers the story behind a white horse.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz. Guest captain Richard Ayoade is joined by Rob Beckett, going up against Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman, with Adam Riches accompanying Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner and Rachel Riley dishing out the all-important consonants, vowels and numbers.

10.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position in the 18th round of the season from the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

11.30 Film: Locke. (2013)

1.10 Film: The Great Beauty. (2013) **3.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.45** Food Unwrapped. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **11.10 Film:** Carry On Sergeant. (1958) **12.40 Film:** Carry On Regardless. (1961) Slapstick comedy, starring Sid James. **2.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords Revisited 2. (R) **4.25** Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R) **5.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.20 NCIS. As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery – a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the prime suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R)

7.05 NCIS. McGee is sent to a women's prison to interview a murder suspect, but ends up being captured by the inmates, who have run riot and seized control of a cell block, afraid they will be blamed for killing a guard. Held hostage as a bargaining chip, he tries to identify the real culprit before the warden takes drastic action to resolve the crisis. (R)

8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. Radio show DJ Kayla Anderson indirectly witnesses the murder of a US Navy captain when she hears him being shot dead over the phone during an on-air call. As the team investigates the first death, Kayla receives another call, this time from the shooter, indicating her life may be in danger too. Meanwhile, Pride's daughter Laurel returns home, having given up on her musical dream. Military crime drama, starring Scott Bakula.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Aston Villa v Fulham at Villa Park, Huddersfield Town v Derby County at John Smith's Stadium, and Nottingham Forest v Cardiff City at The City Ground.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Bradford City v Sheffield United, and Blackpool v Doncaster Rovers.

10.30 Film: Redbelt. (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00** The Code **10.55** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **11.55** Heavy Metal Britannia **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.35** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.05 You've Been Framed! Gold **11.30 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **1.25 Film:** Nim's Island (2008) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30 Film:** Nim's Island (2008) **3.25 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **5.15 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20 Film:** King Kong (2005) **8.50** Scorpion **9.50** The Xtra Factor Live **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05 Film:** Final Destination (2000) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** Final Destination (2000) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.25 FYI Daily **11.30 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **12.10 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock (1973) **1.50** Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Colditz **1.00** Wycliffe **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.00 Pawn Stars **1.25** British Superbike Championship Highlights **2.55 Film:** Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** Fierce **8.00 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.50 Film:** Rumble in the Bronx (1995) **10.50** FYI Daily **10.55 Film:** Rumble in the Bronx (1995) **11.35 Film:** McVicar (1980) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** McVicar (1980) **1.50** Car Crash Global **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

11.30 Black-ish **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.15 Film:** Stuart Little (1999) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** The Inbetweeners **1.20** Rude Tube **3.20** Gogglebox **4.10** The Mindy Project

Film4

1.00 The House of Magic (2013) **2.40** A Monster in Paris (2011) **4.25** Fletch (1985) **6.30** A League of Their Own (1992) **9.00** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **11.15** Wanted (2008) **1.25** Madhouse (2004) **3.15** Close

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CHOICE

Virginia McKenna

Virginia McKenna's Born Free
(Channel 4, 7pm)
The actress returns to the Kenyan locations of the classic movie about a lion being reared by humans to mark its 50th anniversary. Virginia shares her experiences of working alongside wild lions for nine months, revealing how she was able to earn the animals' trust, and reflects on how the film changed public perceptions of wildlife. The programme examines the political backdrop of the film, with footage of Kenya officially gaining independence from British imperial rule.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Britain's first commercial walnut harvest in Somerset, while Matt Baker meets a man in East Sussex who spends half of each year living off grid in a tree house made of recycled wood. A botanist reveals how he uses time-lapse filming to record fungi growing, Naomi Wilkinson discovers how conkers became a valuable resource during the First World War, and chef Cyrus Todiwala prepares Indian style sausages using rare breed woodland pork. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's contest, and the two lowest scoring couples compete in a dance-off. LeAnn Rimes is this week's guest singer.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team value more rarities at Baddesley Clinton, near Solihull, including a rare silver box and a painting entitled The Nudist Colony's Annual Dinner Dance.

9.00 Poldark. Ross and Dwight face trial after the disastrous smuggling incident. George continues to send men to make Elizabeth feel threatened – then offers to help if she will marry him.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents Premier League highlights, including Chelsea v Manchester United at Stamford Bridge, as Jose Mourinho returned to the club where he won three league titles.

11.30 Film: Eagle Eye. (2008) Two strangers go on the run from the authorities after receiving phone calls warning their lives are in danger. Thriller, with Shia LaBeouf.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Food & Drink. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** American Football: NFL Live. New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (Kick-off 2.30pm).

6.00 Who's Spending Britain's Billions? Jacques Peretti looks beyond the well-known budgets of schools, hospitals and foreign aid to the range of taxation projects the public know less about. Peretti finds that local councils across the UK are signing contracts with management consultancy firms who can take a percentage of any savings they find. He also reveals that hundreds of the millions of taxpayers' pounds spent on these contracts are covered by confidential deals, meaning very little detail is known about them. In this revealing insight, Peretti asks if the public deserves to know more about how those charged with managing the nation's billions are spending it. (R)

7.00 Inside Obama's White House. The story of how Barack Obama resolved to reform the healthcare system in the United States, despite stern opposition from the Republicans and within his own party. (R)

8.00 Horizon: The Wildest Weather in the Universe. Scientists conducting research into weather on other planets, who have discovered strange phenomena including rains of precious stones, supersonic winds and world-spanning storms.

9.00 Wild West: America's Great Frontier. The series concludes with a journey along America's West coast, exploring the impact of the ocean on the landscape and animals gathering in the Sea of Cortez. Last in the series.

10.00 Mock the Week. Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Ivo Graham and Romesh Ranganathan join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis. (R)

10.35 QI XL.

11.20 Film: Downfall. (2004)

1.45 Sign Zone: Aberfan: The Fight for Justice. (R) **2.45** Countryfile. (R) **3.40** Holby City. (R) **4.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.30** Tipping Point. (R) **5.30** Doc Martin. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Angellica Bell, Oritse Williams, Leslie Ash and Ian Lavender pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's live show, revealing which acts are safely through to the next round. The two lowest scoring contestants compete in a sing-off in front of judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh to decide who gets to stay in the competition and who gets eliminated.

9.00 Tutankhamun. Carter returns to the Valley of the Kings to complete his search as the First World War draws to a close, but has to contend with Anti-British sentiment sweeping across Egypt.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine. (R)

11.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Shipping Wars. **6.40** Shipping Wars. **7.05** Frasier. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Posh Pawnbrokers. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Comedian Jack Whitehall joins the hosts. (R) **1.30 Film:** Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. (2004) Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey. **3.35** Child Genius vs Celebrities: SU2C Special. Richard Osman hosts a quiz show featuring gifted youngsters. (R) **4.35 Film:** Sister Act. (1992) Nightclub singer Deloris Van Cartier agrees to testify against her gangster boyfriend after witnessing a murder. Placed in protective custody by the authorities, she is less than pleased to discover she is expected to pose as chaste nun Sister Mary Clarence in a convent. Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg, Harvey Keitel, Maggie Smith, Bill Nunn and Kathy Najimy. Edited for language.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Virginia McKenna's Born Free. The actress recalls the making of the classic movie.

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales take a trip to Bristol, where Timothy is soon to play King Lear at the Old Vic theatre. They both revisit the Devon homes they spent their childhoods in during the Second World War and board a replica of a 15th-century tall ship and a paddle steamer. Pru shares her memories of meeting evacuees from London in the small fishing village of Bucks Mills.

9.00 Film: The Grand Budapest Hotel. (2014) Premiere. An old man tells a journalist the story of his youth as a lobby boy at a hotel in Eastern Europe in the 1930s. He was taken under the wing of the establishment's dashing concierge, and is drawn into his misadventures as he becomes involved in a conflict over a valuable painting. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, starring Ralph Fiennes.

11.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the 18th round of the season at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

1.00 Film: Baggage Claim. (2013) Romantic comedy, with Paula Patton. **2.35** Food Unwrapped. (R) **3.05** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pets. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** Great South Run. **12.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.05** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **1.35 Film:** Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son. (2011) Comedy, with Martin Lawrence. **3.40 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore. (2010) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **5.15** Now That's Funny!

6.15 Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of self-imposed exile in a Buddhist monastery to visit Africa and help search for a sacred white bat. However, his unique investigative talents are tested to the limits as he faces a race against time to find the missing creature and prevent a tribal war. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey, Simon Callow and Bob Gunton. Edited for sex and language. Includes 5 News Update at 7.15pm.

8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Ice road rookie Mike attempts his first solo delivery, while Lisa and Darrell secure a high-stakes mission to deliver some urgently needed electrical transformers to a distant town.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Need for Speed. (2014) Premiere. A street racer is betrayed by a friend, and ends up being framed for causing a death during an illegal contest. Two years later, he is released from prison and returns to the underground racing circuit with revenge in mind. Action adventure based on the video game, starring Aaron Paul, Dominic Cooper, Imogen Poots and Michael Keaton. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.30 Film: Takers. (2010) Six bank robbers plan a lucrative armoured car robbery, but a determined police officer is closing in on them. Crime thriller, starring Paul Walker, Matt Dillon and Idris Elba.

1.30 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Criminals Caught On Camera. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **8.00** Aberfan: The Green Hollow **9.00** Aberfan: A Concert to Remember **10.00** Arena: The Roundhouse – The People's Palace **11.00** Pink Floyd Beginnings 1967 – 1972 **12.00** Horizon: Dinosaurs – The Hunt for Life **1.00** Oak Tree: Nature's Greatest Survivor **2.30** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **3.30** Close

ITV2
1.15 You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45** I'm a Celeb: Junglicious Moments **2.45 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **4.40 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **6.25 Film:** Twilight (2008) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** Twilight (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.30 Lewis **2.25 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **4.05 Film:** Carry On Henry (1971) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Carry On Henry (1971) **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Rising Damp Forever **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.10** Inspector Morse **2.15** The Kindness of Strangers **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.10** You're Only Young Twice

ITV4
1.00 Monster Carp **2.05** Cash Cowboys **4.00** Storage Wars: Texas **4.35** Storage Wars: Texas **5.00** Counting Cars **6.00** Pawn Stars **9.00 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **11.10 Film:** 30 Days of Night (2007) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** 30 Days of Night (2007) **1.20** Fishing Impossible **2.15** Hell on Wheels **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
3.35 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.50** The Big Bang Theory **6.45 Film:** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **9.00** Tattoo Fixers: Stand Up to Cancer **10.05** Crazyhead **11.10** The Inbetweeners **12.55** Gogglebox **1.55** Tattoo Fixers: Stand Up to Cancer **2.55** Body Fixers **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4
1.00 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **2.40** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **4.40** City of Ember (2008) **6.30** Life of Pi (2012) **9.00** Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) **11.40** Piranha 3DD (2012) **1.20** Sanctum (2011) **3.35** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Cradle 2 the Grave, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A Taiwanese undercover agent helps a master jewel thief track down the international crimelord who has kidnapped his daughter and is using her as a bargaining chip to obtain a cache of rare black diamonds. Action thriller, starring Jet Li, DMX, Mark Dacascos, Tom Arnold and Gabrielle Union. (2003)

TUESDAY
A Father's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Ambitious young attorney Carrie aspires to become a partner like her fiance, and eagerly accepts a billion-dollar wrongful death case in a bid to improve her standing in the legal profession. Thriller, starring Willa Ford. (2016)

WEDNESDAY
The Scorpion King, ITV, 10.45pm
A ruthless warlord resolves to rid the desert of its few remaining tribes, prompting them to seek the help of a legendary assassin to end the despot's reign of terror by destroying his source of power – a beautiful but deadly sorceress. Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson, Steven Brand ans Kelly Hu. (2002)

Tombstone, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
Tanu Weds Manu Returns, Channel 4, 1.10am
Sequel to the 2011 movie Tanu Weds Manu. The couple are living in London but have grown bored with each other, so Tanu returns to India, begins divorce proceedings and returns to her flirtatious ways. Romantic comedy, starring R Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut. In Hindi with English subtitles. (2015)

FRIDAY
Tombstone, Channel 5, 10pm
Renowned marshal Wyatt Earp becomes a professional gambler in the town of Tombstone, but is forced out of his retirement to take on a gang of hellraising villains no one else is prepared to stand up to. Joining forces with his brothers and drunken gunslinger Doc Holliday, he gets ready to face them in a showdown at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer, Bill Paxton, Sam Elliott, Michael Biehn and Charlton Heston. (1993)

PICK OF THE WEEK

The final is set to end in tiers all round

When it was announced earlier in 2016 that The Great British Bake Off was moving to Channel 4, for many that was the final (cheese) straw.

In a year when we had to say goodbye to British legends Terry Wogan, David Bowie, Victoria Wood and Alan Rickman, as well as the shock Brexit result, the loss of one of the best loved shows on BBC One was too much to bear.

After series seven, no longer would we get to experience that twinkle in Mary Berry's eye as the whiff of a boozy cake wafted under her nose.

The thought of losing Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins was also horrific. The Light Lunch veterans provided a shoulder to cry on when the cookies didn't crumble the way contestants had hoped, or souffles collapsed like a bouncy castle's close encounter with a stiletto heel.

Obviously as the Beeb is paid for by the license fee, the thought of spending a fortune to keep it on an advert-free channel proved richer than a fruit sponge for the powers-that-be.

So, like former Beeb favourites Morecambe and Wise and The Voice UK, it will head for the land of ad breaks.

Though many might disagree, this has been one of the best years so far for invention, daring and downright nail-biting entertainment.

Who could forget Candice Brown's edible pub, or dazzling marzipan peacock?

Certainly not the millions of fans who were marvelling over her creativity while wondering where she got her inspiring ranges of lipstick.

Then there's Selasi Gbormittah, the Londoner who was the epitome of calm under pressure. His culinary creations also took the breath away.

And who didn't marvel at the work of Andrew Smyth, the Eddie Redmayne lookalike whose bakes were often Oscar worthy – if there was an award for most mouthwatering creations?

There were so many other contestants in this series who measured, whisked, stirred and kneaded while making silent prayers by their respective ovens that the silver fox would give his approval.

Yes, Paul Hollywood, the only GBBO veteran preparing to make the leap to Channel 4, has long been the hardest to please in this contest. Though Ms Berry summations have seemed spot on, Liverpool's most fearsome baking expert has never suffered fools gladly.

So whoever wins this edition, those final trials will be anything but a piece of cake.

But before the victor is announced around 8.55pm, spare a thought for all those incredible contestants who have won our hearts over the past six years.

Edd Kimber, Joanne Wheatley, John Whaite, Frances Quinn, Nancy Birtwhistle and Nadiya Hussain may have all clinched victory, but also rans such as Ruby Tandoh and occasional 5 Live contributor Flora Shedden often proved to be just as entertaining.

With talk of a new BBC baking show featuring Mel and Sue, let's hope that whatever happens for the splintered GBBO team, things don't end here.

The Great British Bake Off: The Final, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Autumnwatch 2016
BBC2, 8pm
It's not hard to see why Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan's nature series have become so popular. Aside from the often stunning footage of wildlife at different times of the year, there's the added bonuses of celebrity guests giving us their takes on the findings, and the dry putdowns of Packham when they deliver their artwork. As the new run begins, Chris, Michaela and Martin Hughes-Games are at Dorset's RSPB's Arne nature reserve, where they survey the local wildlife preparing for winter.

Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh and the Ivory War
BBC1, 9pm
Every day more than 80 elephants are killed in Africa for their ivory, with experts warning that the African elephant could be extinct in the wild within 25 years if that rate continues. In this two-part documentary, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes on a mission to find out how this illegal trade can be stopped, beginning in the poaching hotspot of northern Mozambique. Hugh follows the trail through the Kenyan port of Mombasa to one of the busiest ivory markets in the world – Hong Kong.

TUESDAY
Ordinary Lies
BBC1, 9pm
After finding a note in her boyfriend Neil's pocket, personal assistant Holly convinces herself that he's having second thoughts about their relationship. Desperately unhappy and anxious, she starts to reminisce about her old flame, Adam Carver. Discovering that he is newly single, Holly assumes a new online identity to try and win back his affection. Meanwhile, newly divorced Ally is ecstatic when intern Ash asks her out on an official date. Drama, starring Kimberley Nixon.

WEDNESDAY
Little British Isles with Alison Steadman
Channel 4, 8pm
Alison travels across the English Channel to discover more about the idyllic life found on the Channel Islands. In Jersey, she dives into their cultural traditions and helps inseminate the iconic Jersey cow, and finds out more about how this island continues to hold onto its own traditional values. On Alderney, Alison discovers more about the abundance of wildlife found on the island.

Him
ITV, 9pm
After losing control of his powers and almost destroying his father's house, HIM's parents struggle to work out what is best for their son. His relationship with his step-sister Faith is pushed to its limits as he continues to fight his feelings for her, adding extra strain to his already unstable emotional state. Meanwhile, HIM discovers some unnerving truths about his grandfather's inherited powers after a visit to his grandmother's.

The Apprentice, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Apprentice
BBC1, 9pm
For their latest task, Alan Sugar summons the candidates to the Draper's Hall, where he informs them they are entering the luxury retail business, with each team taking over an area of world-famous department store Liberty of London. Over the course of two days, they must provide a personal shopping service for some of the capital's most discerning customers.

FRIDAY
Secrets of Great British Castles
Channel 5, 8pm
Historian Dan Jones begins a new run of the series in Edinburgh. These days, the city's stunning castle is a well-known landmark, but it has had a traumatic past and is widely thought to be Britain's most besieged stronghold. Its hilltop location made it the ideal place for an Iron Age base, and the spot has housed a military facility ever since; it is also Scotland's most popular paid tourist destination and an event that took place there is said to have inspired the Red Wedding in Game of Thrones. Jones also discovers that the castle was the target of the world's first aerial bombing.

Still Game
BBC1, 9.30pm
Jack and Victor become unlikely marriage guidance counsellors when Fergie's head is turned by beautiful redhead, Kayleigh. While his wife of just one year, Sinead, is blissfully unaware her husband is lusting after another, Jack and Victor share their wisdoms about modern women's needs with Fergie. However, their well-meaning advice proves to be less than helpful. Meanwhile, Navid and Boabby job-swap to prove who has the cushiest career. Comedy, starring Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill.

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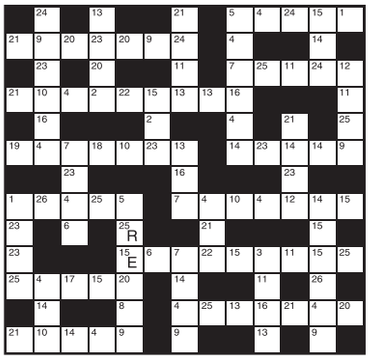
BRAIN GYM No.400

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to start you off.



1	14
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	T	A	P	D	O	E	M	N	F	B	G	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	W	C	V	Z	Q	U	R	J	K	I	X	S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

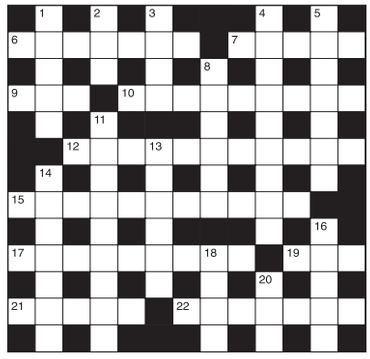
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Sum invested in chief city (7)
7. Craftsman, mother and boy (5)
9. See 20 Down
10. Making comments on the teacher's second correction of the work (9)
12. Sly when short of workers? (11)
15. Off the cuff, formerly not being intended to last (11)
17. Grief's fun when in pain? (9)
19. Little Dorothy returns in custody (3)
21. Live amicably in order to prosper? (3,2)
22. Again poetry can cause a setback (7)

Down

1. Request male to leave fruit (5)
2. Got teeth into a piece (3)
3. Strain of people in athletic competition (4)
4. Support first attempt on the rear door? (4,5)
5. A reckoner in the shop? (7)
8. Metal disc for getting clothes clean (6)
11. Less than 12 inches being trodden on (9)
13. Specialist was formerly saucy (6)
14. Egghead has 90 applications for apologies (7)
16. Raise one in the throng (5)
18. A requirement of Eden (4)
20 & 9Ac. The males grow old in this household (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Lasting (7)
7. Deluge (5)
9. Not many (3)
10. Shelter (4,5)
12. Poor (11)
15. Valise (11)
17. Razed (9)
19. Concealed (3)
21. Condescend (5)
22. Narration (7)

Down

1. Silent (5)
2. Manner (3)
3. Entreaty (4)
4. Unreasonable (9)
5. Sad (7)
8. Outcome (6)
11. Copy (9)
13. Dodged (6)
14. Defile (7)
16. Demon (5)
18. Apiece (4)
20. Lad (3)

Sudoku

		8		9				
		9			6	3	1	8
5			8		7		9	
			1		4			6
	5	3			2	8		
1			3		9			
	9		4			1		7
2	4	1	6		3			
				1		4		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	5	9	6	4	1	7	3	8
1	8	7	9	5	3	6	4	2
4	3	6	8	2	7	5	9	1
7	1	2	3	6	5	4	8	9
9	4	5	7	1	8	3	2	6
3	6	8	4	9	2	1	7	5
6	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	7
5	2	4	1	7	9	8	6	3
8	7	1	2	3	6	9	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bard; 3 Moribund; 8 Brag; 9 Flashing; 11 Humiliations; 13 On time; 14 Scorer; 17 Raise the roof; 20 Nobleman; 21 Dine; 22 Pressing; 23 Ages. Down: 1 Babyhood; 2 Readmit; 4 Oilcan; 5 In stitches; 6 Union; 7 Dogs; 10 Old masters; 12 Triflers; 15 Rioting; 16 Strain; 18 Amble; 19 Snap. QUICK - Across: 1 Drop; 3 Wretched; 8 Safe; 9 Corridor; 11 Excursionist; 13 Strive; 14 Victor; 17 Amelioration; 20 Calendar; 21 Sure; 22 Nonsense; 23 Deny. Down: 1 Dispense; 2 Officer; 4 Rookie; 5 Tyrannical; 6 Hades; 7 Dark; 10 Prevalence; 12 Princely; 15 Tribute; 16 Morass; 18 Melon; 19 Scan.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which book is also called the Book of Changes?
2. From which bean is chocolate obtained?
3. In which country did John Bull compose the British national anthem?
4. Which Labour leader's middle names were Todd Naylor?
5. How many riders take part in a speedway heat?
6. In which city did the St Valentine's Day Massacre take place?
7. With what is the Weddell Sea usually covered?
8. What is the longest river in Scotland?
9. WIth which motor-racing team did Damon Hill become Formula One champion?
10. What type of creature is a merganser?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Doorways and passages;

2 Malcolm Bradbury; 3 A whale; 4 Polaris;

5 Walter Scott; 6 John Updike; 7 Three;

8 March 17; 9 Atlantic; 10 John.

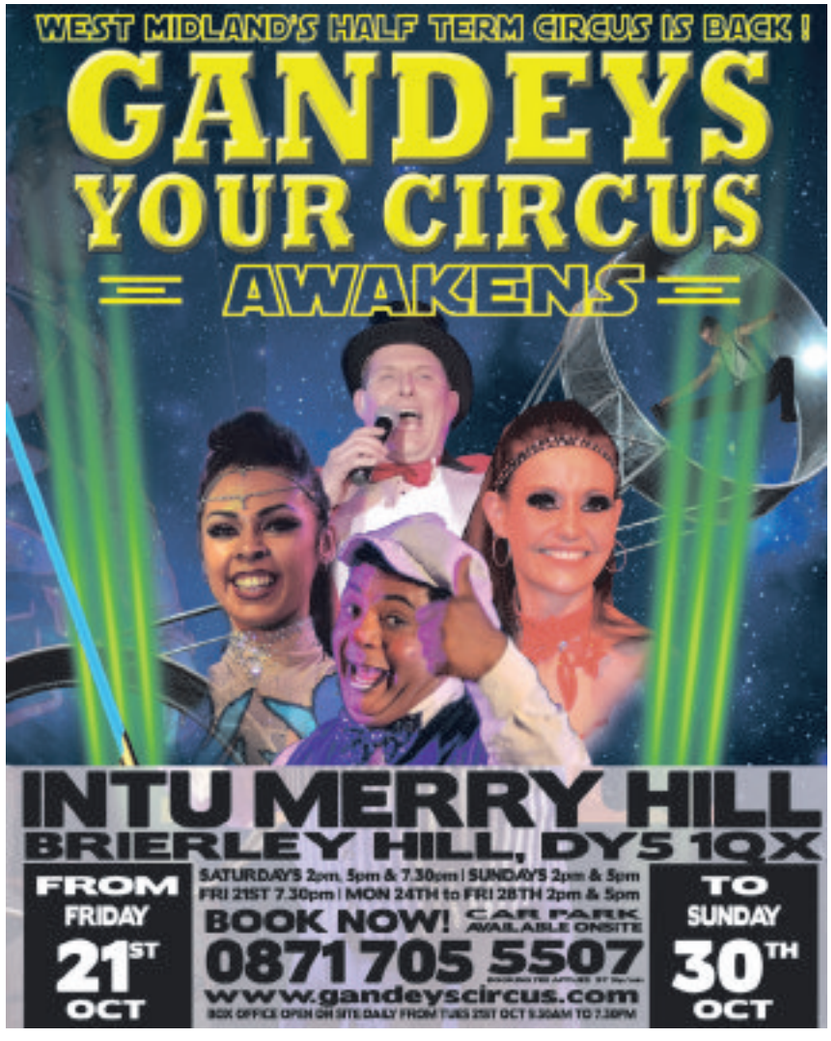
Niner: DOCTRINES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6321 gives a painter,
82539 gives a composer,
1793411 gives another composer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

Lots Tor write home about after stay in Darwin Forest

The lovely pool to help holidays go swimmingly inside Evolution Health & Fitness

Pine lodges nestled in among the trees at Darwin Forest, near Matlock

By Graeme Andrew

FOR the perfect get-away-from-it-all holiday, in the heart of one of the most beautiful parts of the country, look no further than Darwin Forest Country Park near Matlock.

Bringing nature to the fore, luxurious facilities and backed by an enviable ecological ethos, this beautiful 44-acre park of pine lodges – set among some of the most spectacular landscapes in Britain – is ideal for both families and couples, looking for a break to remember.

Just stepping out of the car on arrival, immediately the freshness in the air took my breath away as I gazed upon rabbits scuttling around in the undergrowth. Then into the lodge itself, one of 100 sparingly dotted around the park, with enough space between to offer a real feeling of comfortable isolation – unlike some holiday parks where you can see what your neighbours are eating for breakfast.

Membership

Beautifully kitted out with all the mod-cons you will ever need, the lodges provide five-star self-catering luxury with a surprising amount of space, and if you are so inclined, a hot-tub all to yourself. Darwin Forest is a perfect base for touring and my wife and I had already taken advantage of our National Trust membership and visited Hardwick Hall before our arrival.

The highlights? An amazing walk, a huge pot of tea, and a stumpery in the lovely gardens – yes, a Victorian idea of building a unique wilderness around tree trunks with their gnarled shapes, Alan Titchmarsh would be proud.

We opted for a couple of walks during our stay, which at some points became scrambles, with a fair few hundred feet either side of us, but stunning nevertheless – Mam Tor at Castleton and the thrilling Chrome Hill, near Hollinsclough.

The majestic Mam Tor, near Castleton, also called the Shivering Mountain, following landslides

It was particularly surreal to come across what was described as 'the broken road' near Mam Tor – basically a landslide some years ago put paid to Castleton having a main road out of the village after it collapsed and pedestrians now have access to this unique experience of walking on something akin to a disaster movie film set.

We interspersed our exertions with excursions to Matlock Bath and the Heights of Abraham – a must-see, considering our location; along with visits to the charming Chesterfield and Buxton, with it's pretty Pavilion Gardens.

But the beauty of Darwin Forest is the vast spectrum of facilities and activities on offer, so that if you're not in the mood for tootling around and just want to spend time among the pines, there is plenty to do.

There are superb leisure facilities available, a lovely swimming pool, well-stocked gym as well as beauty treatments, with my other half opting for the de-stress massage session, and she gave that a big thumbs-up, having been trained as a masseuse herself. There is plenty to offer for the youngsters, with its Little Monkeys play area and the Activity Den that has arcade games, table tennis, air hockey and pool tables, to keep the bigger kids happy.

Everywhere you look there is a real feeling of everything being in its right place, with lovely décor for instance in the Foresters bar and restaurant, plus the Explorers café – perfectly complementing the unique surroundings. Families with dogs are welcome too and there are plenty of trails for walking and cycling, with bikes also for hire. An all-weather tennis court and mini-golf course is available for the more sporty types.

Finally, we did try the Trim Trak – a trail including a few physical challenges along the way! I thank the lord that there was no CCTV to record my attempts at the monkey bars and climbing wall, where it took all my gumption, despite scaling the heights of the Peak District, to come down the other side, sliding down a 10ft high wooden bar!

Still, at least the rabbits had a good laugh...

For further information on Darwin Forest, call 01629 732428, email enquiries@darwinforest.co.uk; or log onto www.darwinforest.co.uk.

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5 NOV • BEAUTIFUL THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL & LONDON
12 NOV • MOTOWN & LONDON
12 NOV • ALADDIN & LONDON
19 NOV • KINKY BOOTS & LONDON
19 NOV • CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY & LONDON
24 NOV • ELVIS IN CONCERT SCREEN SPECTACULAR
26 NOV • LES MISERABLES & LONDON
26 NOV • WICKED & LONDON
3 DEC • BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL IN MANCHESTER
3 DEC • PHANTOM OF THE OPERA & LONDON
3 DEC • JERSEY BOYS & LONDON

CHRISTMAS MARKET WEEKENDS
2 DAYS from £59.95
Shop for that elusive Christmas present! Overnight half board
★LIVERPOOL & MANCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET
12, 19, 26 NOV Xmas party night + most drinks 2 for 1 6-9pm £69.95
★EXETER & BATH CHRISTMAS MARKETS
26 NOV, 3, 10 DEC Xmas party night in Torquay Hotel £69.95
★CHATSWORTH AT CHRISTMAS & CHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET
19, 26 NOV, 10 DEC Admission to Chatsworth House included! £89.95
★GRASSINGTON DICKENSIAN FAYRE & SKIPTON XMAS MARKET
3, 10 DEC Xmas party night & glass bubbly in Blackpool hotel £79.95
★YORK ST NICHOLAS FAYRE & BUXTON CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
10 DEC Includes Scenic Peak District Tour £69.95
★BOURNEMOUTH GARDENS OF LIGHT & WINCHESTER XMAS MARKET
27 NOV, 11 DEC
Fabulous illuminated spectacle plus party night in hotel
STAR BUY ONLY £59.95
Lots more available - including Tribute Weekends and Christmas Market Day Trips CALL FOR BROCHURE!

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Overnight half board, super Tribute Act
★Most drinks 2 for 1 from 6-9pm
★LEEDS CHRISTKINDLEMARKT & YORK ST NICHOLAS FAYRE
Staying at the Grand Hotel, Scarborough
27 NOV ★ABBA
4 DEC ★DIANA ROSS
★LLANDUDNO & CHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET
20 NOV Grand Hotel, Llandudno ★ROD STEWART
★CHESTER & CHATSWORTH CHRISTMAS MARKET
20 NOV Daresbury Park Hotel ★LIONEL RITCHIE
★CHESTER & MATLOCK VICTORIAN XMAS MARKET
4 DEC Daresbury Park Hotel ★FREDDIE MERCURY
★LIVERPOOL & CHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET
4 DEC Grand Hotel, Llandudno ★MICHAEL BUBLE
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• FOLKESTONE
• ISLE OF WIGHT
• LLANDUDNO
• SCARBOROUGH
• SCOTLAND
• SOUTHPORT
• SPAIN, COSTA BRAVA
• TORQUAY
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Lots more available including Priebuster breaks. Call for brochure

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2 DAYS £79.95
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Maximum free time in london for shopping or sightseeing
EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL 17 DEC

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2 for 1 BAR 6pm-9pm (T&C APPLY)
Murder-mystery themed evening on Sat evening
3 DAYS £99.95
TWO NIGHTS HALF BOARD
LLANDUDNO Loretta Hotel FRIDAYS 28 OCT
18 NOV (includes Chester Xmas Market), 2 DEC

LIVERPOOL BEATLES & CHESTER
2 for 1 BAR 6pm-9pm (T&C APPLY)
5 DAYS £199.95
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Adelphi Hotel
• Includes Beatles Tour & Cavern Club, Mersey River Cruise & Visit to Chester
MON 28 NOV

LLANDUDNO, SNOWDONIA & ISLE OF ANGLESEY
2 for 1 BAR 6pm-9pm (T&C APPLY)
5 DAYS from £159.95
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD New Loretta Hotel
• Includes visit to Snowdonia & the Isle of Anglesey and historic Conwy
MON 28 NOV, 5 DEC

OSTEND & BRUGES
4/5 DAYS from £199.95
3/4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD New Astoria Hotel, Ostend
• Full day excursion to Bruges & half day tour visiting Sluis in Holland
4 DAYS FRI 28 OCT, 2, 9 DEC
5 DAYS MON 5 DEC

You May Also Like: Torquay, Isle of Wight, Bournemouth, Eastbourne, Folkestone, Llandudno breaks from £59.95

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Residence at the heart of a village

'White Cottage', 8 Moss Grove, Kingswinford, is an impressively spacious and well proportioned residence in the heart of the village.

It is for sale through Taylors at £284,950 with no chain.

Having a beautiful 100 foot secluded rear garden, it is also ideally placed for commuting.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a reception hall with stairs off and under stairs storage and a ground floor guest cloakroom/WC.

The large and attractive lounge has French doors opening out to the rear garden and a living flame gas fire with a feature smooth stone finish fireplace surround and a plate rack. The formal dining room has a bay window and a plate rack.

The kitchen features a range of white units, a bow window to the rear including a stainless steel sink/drainer unit with recess and plumbing for a washing machine and cupboard/storage space below. The units return to provide space for cooker with base storage. There is also an integrated fridge, and full height tiling to the walls.

The return staircase rises via an original square pattered leaded window to the side to the first floor landing which includes a built in linen cupboard.

Bedroom one is a large master bedroom with a window to the rear and fitted wardrobes. Bedroom two has fitted wardrobes and bedroom three has a built-in wardrobe.

The bathroom has a classic white suite with chrome coloured fittings including the panelled bath, electric shower and shower screen above, wash basin with vanity unit, a push button flush WC, a heated towel rail full height tiling to the walls and a window to the front of the property.

Outside, the driveway has off road parking and extends in front of the property with an attractive front garden alongside. The driveway continues alongside the house to gated access into the rear garden and also providing an approach to a sectional garage.

The large rear garden is a particular feature of the property being beautifully maintained and attractively laid out to include a paved patio area and extensive beautifully maintained principally level lawns with well stocked and established borders either side.

KINGSWINFORD £284,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors
TEL: 01384 401777
EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

Individual & substantial
In the heart of the village
Near shops & schools
2 generous receptions
Beautiful garden

Taylors

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

KINGSWINFORD, Prestwick Road

Enjoying a much sought after Valley Fields address, this MOST IMPRESSIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME combines a desirable location with a SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED and BEAUTIFULLY RE-APPOINTED layout including THREE BEDROOMS. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and with a attractively landscaped low maintenance rear garden. EPC D

£254,950

QUARRY BANK, Coppice Rise

This TRULY SPACIOUS & RATHER HANDSOME, DETACHED HOME comprises: Reception Hall, Attractive Lounge, Dining Room, Spacious Breakfast Kitchen, FOUR SUPERB BEDROOMS (Master with En-Suite), Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Large Garden. EPC: D

£239,950

LOWER GORNAL, Shakespeare Road, Straits

Spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & majority uPVC double glazed detached bungalow within reasonable walking distance of so many day -to-day amenities briefly comprising porch, central reception hall, cloaks, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, pantry, store, through lobby. Brick garage (automated door), secluded rear garden. EPC. D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000

WOMBOURNE, The Celandines

Very pleasantly situated within this exclusive cul de sac location, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys an attractive rear aspect and offers a spacious, well presented layout, plus a driveway, TANDEM GARAGE and a level, patio / lawned rear garden. EPC TBA

£189,950

LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood

Tremendously modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that has been comprehensively modernised in recent years at head of cul-de-sac with porch, hall, and "open plan" accommodation incorporating lounge section (with bay), dining room section (with French doors out to garden), and a refitted kitchen section. Three bedrooms, bathroom. parking, "sun trap" side/rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £180,000...£175,000

HIMLEY, Churns Hill Lane

PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED - A SUPERB, VERY SPACIOUS FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT for 55 yr plus owners, with open country views and a generous, beautifully appointed TWO BEDROOM layout with an EN-SUITE, plus ALLOCATED CAR PARKING and beautifully landscaped communal gardens. EPC B

No upward chain £174,950

UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer style detached with flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises; hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent 'hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite.Parking, gardens, distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £174,950,NOW £171,950

SEDGLEY, Dudley Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Conveniently situated on the Dudley Road in Sedgley this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED property offers lots of potential and briefly comprises of; porch, entrance hallway, sitting room, living room, conservatory, guest W/C, kitchen, utility, garage, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive to front. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £164,950

BRIERLEY HILL, Deeley Street

This STUNNING & SPACIOUS, DETACHED, THREE BEDROOM, PROPERTY comprises: Reception Hall, Guests W.C, CONTEMPORARY WELL FITTED GLOSS KITCHEN, Attractive Sitting Room, THREE FAMILY BEDROOMS, Modern Bathroom, & Lovely Rear Garden. EPC:

£159,950

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

IDEAL FOR THE TRADESMAN REQUIRING EXTENSIVE SECURE PARKING/GARAGING WITH A LARGE FAMILY!!
With FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, and set within walking distance of the village, this is a wonderful spacious family home. Gas centrally heated & Upvc double glazed accommodation provides; hall, fitted cloaks, two reception rooms (formerly separate rooms), Huge through breakfast kitchen, and a utility room. Four generous bedrooms, bathroom. DOUBLE GARAGE/ LARGE CARPORT/GATED PARKING, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £311,950

DUDLEY, Breamore Crescent, 'Earls Keep'

Particularly spacious, double glazed & gas centrally heated, double fronted Bryant built detached on periphery of favoured development with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear. Presented in exemplary order the accommodation provides; hall, store cloakroom, separate dining room, 19ft through lounge,breakfast kitchen with a range of maple effect units and various appliances, laundry, gallery style landing, four bedrooms (two with built-in wardrobes & principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom. DOUBLE GARAGE, garden with retained feature Victorian brick wall. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £279,950

DUDLEY, Himley Road

ENLARGED, modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, dining room with bay, 17' lounge, breakfast kitchen; three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy garden, panoramic views, and CAR PORT together with ADDITIONAL PARKING at rear. EPC:: D.SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £161,000...NOW £156,975**

BRIERELY HILL, Hillcrest Avenue

This SUBSTANTIAL & ENLARGED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Large Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Modern Well Fitted Kitchen, Veranda, Delightful Conservatory, Guests W.C, THREE BEDROOMS, Modern Bathroom, Driveway, GARAGE & LOVELY GARDENS. EPC: E

£144,950

LOWER GORNAL, Summer Lane

This good sized, centrally heated, EXTENDED family home is conveniently situated in the Lower Gornal area of Dudley. Sited on a corner position, this SEMI DETACHED home also boasts; entrance hallway, living room, sitting room, kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms, front and rear gardens, detached garage and parking, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region £139,950

COSELEY, Rock Road, Hurst Hill

A well maintained and tastefully presented Victorian terraced property situated in an enviable position opposite Hurst Hill allotments, Benefiting from central heating and off road parking, this THREE BEDROOM home ideal for first time buyers also boasts, living room, dining room, refitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, rear garden, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950

SEDGLEY, Cross Lane

A modernised, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached occupying a corner plot in popular neighbourhood within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Well proportioned accommodation includes superb reception hall,through living room (formerly separate lounge & dining room), upgraded kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000

PENSNETT, Consort Crescent

This RATHER LOVELY & VERY SPACIOUS, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Stylish Lounge, Attractive Kitchen Diner, Two Large First Floor Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom, Separate W.C, Driveway, Garage, Pleasant Garden. EPC C

£119,950

QUARRY BANK, Bath Road

This COMPREHENSIVELY FURBISHED & BEAUTIFULLY MODERNISED, DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, HOME comprises: Hall, Stylish Lounge, Contemporary Kitchen, Modern Bathroom, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS, Substantial Garden, DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING! EPC E

Offers in Excess of £109,950

SEDGLEY, Holborn House, High Holborn

A 'loft-style' gas centrally heated and double glazed TWO BEDROOM 'duplex' apartment (with gated access to secure parking) and walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation provides imposing reception hall, fitted cloak room, living room and a dining kitchen with an extensive range of units and integrated appliances, walk in store. Two generous bedrooms, bathroom, gated parking. EPC C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £106,950

PENSNETT, Bryce Road

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, This BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED & EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Spacious Lounge, STUNNING CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN with WOW FACTOR, Well Appointed Shower Room & Large Garden. EPC E

£105,950

DUDLEY Old Park Farm Estate, Bramble Green

Conveniently situated on an end position on the popular Old Park Farm estate in Dudley, this semi-detached family home offers lots of potential. Benefiting from an entrance porch, this property also has hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, utility/ storeroom, guest W/C, bathroom with separate W/C, three bedrooms. Enclosed rear garden and parking to front. EPC TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

UPPER GORNAL, Sunnybank Road

SPACIOUS gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached WITH POTENTIAL in popular district. Having been conscientiously maintained over the years but now requiring some sympathetic updating the accommodation offering reception hall, store, through living room, dining room, kitchen, WC, further store. Three double bedrooms, bathroom, wide corner plot with sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region £104,950

KINGSWINFORD, Catesby Drive

A RECENTLY and BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED MODERN FIRST FLOOR FLAT which is superbly located within the much sought after Charterfields development with SINGLE GARAGE to the rear, offering a BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED layout of GENEROUS accommodation. EPC F

£97,500

PENSNETT, Birds Meadow

This MOST APPEALING & SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Rear Veranda, Two / Three Bedrooms, Re-Appointed Wet Room, Rear Garden with lovely distant views! NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D

£94,950

BRIERLEY HILL, Victoria Street

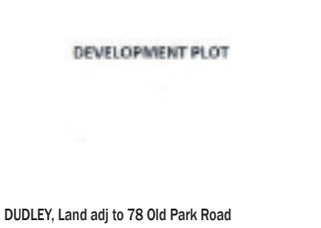
This RATHER CHARMING, TWO BEDROOM, END-TERRACE HOME is available for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN & briefly comprises: Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Shower Room, Two Large First Floor Bedrooms & Pretty Garden. EPC: E

£90,000

BROCKMOOR, Cressett Lane

This TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME has huge potential to create a lovely FIRST HOME and may make an ASTUTE INVESTMENT PROPERTY. Comprising: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom, Allocated Garden, DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING. EPC E

New price **£65,950**



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Planning consent secured to construct a three storey 3 bedroom detached dwelling of approximately 144 square metres (excluding garage) in well established residential neighbourhood. Planning application P16/1061. Viewing arrangements and further details with agents Sedgley Office.

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PROPERTY

A splendid extended five-bedroomed semi-detached

OAKHAM

£260,000

In a cul-de-sac position just off the Oakham Road in Dingle Close, this five bedroomed extended semi-detached family home is for sale through Trinity Property at £260,000.

Having double glazing and central heating, the driveway to the front leads to the front door, into an entrance lobby and then into the entrance hall. There are stairs to the first floor, a door to the downstairs WC and further doors to an open plan lounge/dining room to the front, a through room with doors to the rear garden, a utility area leading through to the modern fitted kitchen with a breakfast bar and with a family room off. On the first floor there are five good sized bedrooms, and the main bedroom with an en-suite shower/WC room off it. There is also a house bathroom/WC with a bath and separate shower with a separate WC down stairs. The rear garden includes decking.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213 395 or visit the website at www.trinityproperty.net

Large modern home situated in much sought after location

KINGSWINFORD

£289,950 >>>

A very large modern detached family home in Balfour Road, Kingswinford, is well placed within the sought after Blanford Mere, in a superb end position adjoining established trees and the open green to the side.

It is for sale through Taylors at £289,950.

Its position enhances the incredibly spacious layout. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, large lounge with walk-in bay, a dining room, an attractively fitted kitchen with an island, ground floor WC, excellent store, three double bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room and house bathroom.

Contact Taylors on 01384 401777 or visit the website at taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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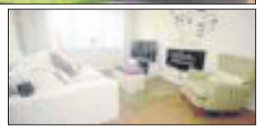
KINGSWINFORD

Wartell Bank,

- TO LET
- A fantastic Semi-detached
- THREE bedrooms
- Walking distance to Kingswinford
- Open plan lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Well kept rear garden
- NO DSS NO PETS

£695 PCM

LOWER GORNAL

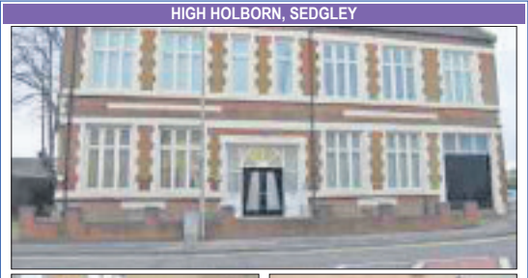


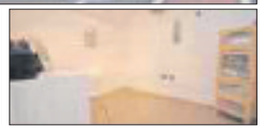
Parkhouse Gardens,

- A well presented FLAT
- Open plan accommodation
- Updated and contemporary
- One double bedrooms
- Communal rear garden
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £72,000

HIGH HOLBORN, SEDGLEY





Holborn House,

- A most attractive duplex apartment
- Situated in the heart of Sedgley Town
- Uniquely designed layout over 2 floors
- Feature double height ceilings
- One bedroom and two bathrooms
- Another reception room (office/playroom)
- Communal ROOF TERRACE
- Secure parking area
- AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

SEDGLEY

Ettymore Close, Sedgley

- A spacious Maisonette
- Central to Sedgley
- Set over 2 floors
- Two good size bedrooms
- Kitchen & Lounge
- An ideal investment property
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £80,000

DUDLEY

Penny Royal Close, Lower Gornal

- Modern end of terrace
- Attractive, well presented
- Breakfast Kitchen
- TWO-bedroom
- Ideal for first time buyers
- Close to Milking Bank
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating - D

£126,950

SEDGLEY

Wolverhampton Road,

- A beautiful dormer Bungalow
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- Set among extensive grounds
- Excellent condition
- Three/four bedrooms
- Snooker Room
- Two garages
- EPC Rating - E

GUIDE PRICE £399,950

LANESFIELD

Ward Grove,

- A BEAUTIFUL Bungalow
- Completely re-designed to a high standard
- Extended Lounge
- Open plan style kitchen area
- Beautiful landscaped garden
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £149,950

UPPER GORNAL

Ox Street,

- A DETACHED home
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Driveway and Garage
- Pleasant cul-de-sac
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,950

LOWER GORNAL

Prospect Road,

- A rare opportunity near Gornal Village
- SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE
- Bedrooms downstairs
- Balcony with fantastic views
- Low maintenance garden
- Opportunity to create ideal home
- FIVE bedrooms
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £244,950

COSELEY

Nicholds Close,

- SOLD IN 3 DAYS
- A FOUR bedroom detached
- Corner plot in cul-de-sac location
- Good size kitchen and utility
- FOUR bedrooms and en-suite
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,950

ETTINGSHALL PARK

Dovedale Road,

- SOLD IN 1 WEEK
- A 'Mucklow' Style semi-detached
- Well presented throughout
- THREE bedrooms
- Through Lounge dining room
- Fabulous rear garden
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £177,500

ETTINGSHALL PARK

Camberley Crescent,

- SOLD IN 4 DAYS!
- Immaculately presented family home
- Extended semi-detached
- Separate Lounge and Dining
- THREE good sized bedrooms
- Garage and off road parking
- Viewing is highly recommended.
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £172,950

GOLDTHORN PARK,

Neville Avenue,

- SOLD IN 2 DAYS!
- Semi-detached located on the popular Goldthorn Park
- THREE bedrooms
- Extensive through Lounge dining room
- Delightful side and rear gardens
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £161,950

COSELEY

Pugh Road, Woodcross

- A traditional style 3 bed semi
- Close by to local schools
- Ideal family home
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Lounge & conservatory
- THREE bedrooms
- Low maintenance garden
- Viewing highly recommended
- EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £131,950

COSELEY

Skidmore Road,

- BRAND NEW development
- THREE BEDROOMS
- Luxury kitchen & bathroom
- Allocated parking
- Rear gardens
- Ideal first time buy
- Flexible mortgages available
- EPC rating- B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

Number of build to rent homes on the increase

The number of build to rent homes has increased strongly in the UK at a time when demand for rental homes is rising but even more need to be constructed, according to the industry.

The latest figures from the British Property Federation show that in the past year the amount of build to rent units in with planning permission, under construction or completed in the UK has surged by over 200 per cent to 67,000 units.

More are being built in the regions which have seen an increase of almost 400 per cent, from 7,000 units in October 2015 to over 34,000 a year on. However, the BPF has stressed that although these figures are encouraging, the sector could be delivering far more homes.

This is particularly the case at the moment, the BPF points out, as investors, with a potential £50 billion to invest, look for stable income and investment sectors that will be relatively unaffected by any Brexit market turbulence.

To further boost activity the BPF has called on the Government to consider changes to the stamp duty surcharge of 3 per cent on additional homes that was introduced in April and want the Chancellor Philip Hammond to use his forthcoming the Autumn Statement to do so.

In its Autumn Statement submission, the BPF has also urged the Chancellor to introduce clearer national planning policy for build to rent developments, and to allow flexibility on space standards by up to 10 per cent.

"The build to rent sector has been one of the good news stories of the housing market over the past few years and it is great to see quality rental homes now coming on to the market at scale," said Melanie Leech, chief executive of the British Property Federation.

"The truth is the sector could be delivering so much more, however, if it can find the opportunities and maintain confidence to invest. The Brexit negotiation period provides a window of opportunity to channel even further investment into this form of housing supply.

"The sector was kick started a few years ago with support from Government and further modest planning and stamp duty changes we believe could firmly send it into overdrive," she added.

Meanwhile, the latest Government figures show that there was a surprise slowdown in the construction industry in August, although statisticians played down any link between the dip and Brexit jitters.

The data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show construction output fell by 1.5 per cent in August after increasing by 0.5 per cent in July with the decrease driven by a 5.1 per cent fall in infrastructure output.

"Construction output has fallen back quite sharply in recent months and contracted by 1.5% in August. As the fall this month is led by infrastructure, it seems unlikely that post-referendum uncertainties are having an impact," said ONS senior statistician Kate Davies.

"Monthly construction data can be quite erratic, so we would warn against trying to read too much into one set of figures," she added.

Market begins to pick up for first time since February

The residential property market in the UK is beginning to pick up nationwide for the first time since February with prices and buyer demand both up, the latest index report shows.

The data from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) also says that market confidence continues to improve following some jitters just after the European Union referendum but Brexit is not having a major impact.

Some 8 per cent more chartered surveyors reported an increase in buyer enquiries in September, a significant turnaround in new buyer enquiries compared to June when a net balance of 34 per cent of respondents reported a drop.

But the report warns that the latest results show considerable variation across the UK, with some respondents seeing a more stable trend as opposed to a solid recovery.

But there is still a lack of properties coming onto the market. The number of new instructions being received by agents fell once again and as a result, the average level of stock on estate agents' books remains close to historic lows at just over 45 properties.

RICS points out that this drop in new properties coming to the market continues a pattern that extends back to the middle of 2014 with a brief exception around the turn of the year when some vendors saw opportunity linked to the April hike in stamp duty for investors.

The drop in housing supply alongside the increase in buyer demand is expected to push up prices somewhat in the near term and by rather more in longer term. The net balance shows prices crept up in September, with 17 per cent more chartered surveyors reporting an increase in prices than a fall, up from 13 per cent in August.

Over the next three months, nationally, house prices are predicted to rise further with 14 per cent more respondents expecting to see an increase. This is the strongest reading since March and compares with 9 per cent in August.

However, there remains a greater level of caution in central London where prices are expected to fall, albeit only modestly, over the same period. Anecdotal evidence suggests that uncertainty following the EU vote along with stamp duty changes, are both continuing to adversely impact the top end of the market in particular.

The lack of choice for would-be purchasers also appears to be restricting overall sales activity for the time being. Nationally, agreed sales were unchanged for a second month having declined sharply from May through to July.

Looking ahead, respondents' optimism towards the sales outlook improved, with growth expected across most parts of the UK over the next three months. Further out, over the next 12 months, contributors are projecting sales to pick-up firmly in all areas.

On a UK wide basis, a majority of 59 per cent of respondents feel house prices are around fair value at present, although 37 per cent do feel their local market is overpriced to some extent.

"The market does now appear to be settling down following the significant headwinds encountered through the spring and summer", said Simon Rubinsohn, RICS chief economist.

"Buyers do appear to be returning, albeit relatively slowly, but the big issue that continues to be highlighted by respondents is the lack of fresh stock on the market. Although this is not a new story, it is a significant one having ramifications for both prices and the level of turnover."

How far would you go to get on the property ladder?

What lengths would you go to in order to get on the property ladder?

Many young people with dreams of getting on the property ladder may be wondering if their aspiration will one day turn into reality, amid tales of rising house prices and strong competition for homes.

Across the UK housing market, demand for homes from buyers picked up in September, for the first time in seven months, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rics).

With buyer demand back on the increase, new, separate research has spelled out just how desperate some would-be home owners are to get a foothold.

A third of would-be home buyers aged 34 and under would be willing to buy a home in a high-crime area, according to a survey.

Some 34 per cent of 18 to 34-year-olds would be willing to do this, compared with just 7 per cent of over-55s.

And despite widespread news coverage of the damage caused by flooding in recent years, 44 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds and 36 per cent of 25 to 34-year-olds would consider living in a flood-risk area if it helped them onto the property ladder, the research from Aviva found.

Many would also roll up their sleeves and take on a run-down "doer-upper" property in need of significant changes to make it safe if it meant they owned their own home.

Seven in 10 (70 per cent) of 25 to 34-year-olds would be willing to do this.

And 83 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds would be

willing to leave family and friends behind and relocate solely to be able to afford cheaper housing. Indeed, the price of a home and how affordable it is was cited by three-quarters of 18 to 34-year-olds as a main influence over their property buying decisions.

Lindsey Rix, managing director, personal lines, at Aviva UK General Insurance, says: "Home ownership is still seen by many in the UK as a significant milestone in life, and these findings make it clear that many young people are being forced to be flexible about where they buy in order to get a leg up on the housing ladder.

"Fewer younger buyers would rule out living in areas with a higher risk of crime or flooding, and there is a real willingness to make the necessary investments in a property in order to bring it up to scratch." She says younger buyers in particular could also be at risk if they do not have adequate home insurance in place.

Aviva's survey findings suggested younger home owners were less likely than all age groups generally to have adequate buildings and contents insurance in place.

Rix says: "Younger buyers in particular are at higher risk as many do not have adequate insurance in place.

"Even properties in the safest of areas can fall victim to damage or crime, and it's vital that home owners across the country have sufficient protection in place to counter this."

Meanwhile, a separate report from Post Office Money Mortgages underlines why some would-be buyers may be willing to take drastic measures to get on the property ladder, if it gives them the chance of home ownership. That report found four in 10 (40 per cent) renters from across the UK expect to be renting for the rest of their lives.

The struggle to raise a deposit was the main reason renters said they did not own their own home.

John Willcock, head of mortgages at Post Office Money, says: "High house prices and concerns about the cost of living have left many assuming that owning their own property is a distant dream rather than an achievable goal."

But of course not everyone wants to be a home owner - and one in 16 (6 per cent) renters said they liked the freedom of being able to move when they wanted to.

MOTORING | YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

New Mazda3 hits the road

There are some subtle visual changes to the new Mazda3 – but combined with some major changes beneath the surface, you get the impression of a brand new car.

Never judge a book by its cover though. Underneath the stylish skin there is a very different story indeed. A raft of improvements inside and out makes the 2017 model quieter, smoother, more refined and safer.

Billed on the Mazda website as "The 2017 Mazda3 – an exhilarating sporty Hatchback with low fuel consumption, the revamped exterior design conveys power, beauty and dynamic motion in every detail.

Experience

"Through further advancements in our renowned SKYACTIV Technology, 2017 Mazda3 further enhances the driving experience, providing you with an unmatched level of driving enjoyment, whilst still achieving excellent fuel economy.

"Advanced i-ACTIVSENSE safety features ensure you stay in safe hands while in-cabin infotainment system MZD Connect keeps you connected to internet radio and social media."

With a choice of two petrol engines and two diesels prices for the new model range from £17,595 to £24,195. Our motoring writer John Griffiths has put the new Mazda to the test. Read his full review on page 53.

MAZDA3 - QUIETER, SMOOTHER AND MORE REFINED. READ OUR ROAD TEST ON PAGE 49

News in brief

SsangYong announces the launch of pick-up

SsangYong has announced the launch of the Musso one-tonne pick-up.

Powered by a smooth and refined 2.2 litre Euro 6 turbo-diesel engine, the new Musso pick-up delivers huge value.

Designed to appeal to those who need a competitively priced work truck, the practicality of 4-wheel drive, the towing capability to haul up to three tonnes yet also the appointments of a family car, it's ideal for towing a work trailer, boat trailer or horse box.

SsangYong pick-up

"Our commercial vehicles represent an intrinsic part of the SsangYong range," says Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK, "and we decided to reintroduce the Musso name to differentiate this superb utility truck from our passenger cars. Musso – which means rhinoceros in Korean – is a tough, robust proposition for any trade, and with a specification, price and warranty no others can compete with."

The new Musso goes on sale in the UK this month, and will feature a newly developed Euro 6 turbo-diesel engine to meet the demand for a more powerful performance and lower CO2 emissions at the same time. There are two models in the range. The SE includes a new-look front grille and dashboard, as well as silver finish 18" alloy wheels and hard wearing 'leather look' TPU seat upholstery. It is priced from £15,995 ex VAT. Further information is available from www.ssangyonggb.co.uk

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11/61	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE Automatic**, 5-dr. 68,000 miles, Grey	£4995
10/10	**FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE** 3-dr. 37,000 miles, Blue	£5295
11/60	**NISSAN NOTE 1.5 DCi N-TEC** 5-dr. 49,000 miles, Red	£5695
09/09	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi EXCLUSIV** 5-dr. 68,000 miles, Grey	£5695
13/62	**FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC** 3-dr. 24,000 miles, Red	£5395
11/61	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SE** 5-dr. 32,000 miles, Grey	£5995
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15/15	**FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCi ZETEC** 3-dr. 13,000 miles, Blue	£10,695
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11/11	**HYUNDAI i10 ACTIVE** 5-dr. Grey, 15,000 miles	£4995
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12/61	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SRI** 5-dr. Silver, 78,000 miles	£7995
12/12	**FORD KUGA 2.0TDCi TITANIUM** 5-dr, Silver, 29,000 miles	£12,995

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

12/62	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 2700 SWB VAN** Black, 68,000 miles	£7995 NO VAT
15/64	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 CDTi 2900 VAN** 10,000 miles, White	£11,295 + VAT
14/64	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 CDTi 2900 VAN** 20,000 miles, White	£11,495 + VAT
14/64	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 CDTi 2900 VAN** 14,000 miles, Silver	£11,895 + VAT
15/15	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 CDTi 2900 VAN** 19,000 miles, Silver	£11,995 + VAT
16/16	**VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER T28 VAN** White, 12,000 miles	£15,995 +VAT

MOTORHOMES

07/07	**ROLLERTEAM 200** 2 Berth	£21,995
10/10	**CI CARIOCA 200** 4 Berth Fixed Bed	£27,995
13/63	**BAILEY APPROACH 620SE** 4000 miles	£34,995
16/16	**RIMOR KATAMARANO 109+** Island Bed	£38,495

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VAUXHALL

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

Mid-sized SUV is a strong contender

Michael Weston

SKODA KODIAQ

Skoda enters the mid-sized SUV segment with this Kodiaq, a model with class-leading passenger space, plenty of luxurious touches and the option of seven seats.

It can tow up to 2.5-tonnes and has the largest boot in the class too. In other words, you'd have to take this contender seriously.

The mainstream Kodiaq engine range is built around two TDI diesel units and a trio of TSI petrol powerplants.

Most will want the 2.0-litre TDI unit, offered with either 150 or 190PS, with the pokier version able to accelerate this large SUV to 62mph in 8.6s on the way to 130mph. The range of petrol engines consists of two 1.4 TSI units, plus a 2.0 TSI powerplant.

The entry-level 1.4 TSI generates 125PS and 200Nm of torque, while the pokier 1.4 option manages 150PS and 250Nm of pulling power.

The top-of-the-range 2.0TSI petrol engine develops 180PS with a decent 320Nm of torque. It'll be a rare choice though.

Possibly of more interest than the engines on offer will be the freshly-developed 7-speed dual-clutch auto gearbox, an option to the standard 6-speed manual with some variants. An optional 'Driving Mode Select' system enables the driver to tweak throttle response, steering feel and auto gearshift timings, plus on 4x4 versions there's a 'Snow' setting that optimises things for off road use.

Front wheel drive is mandatory on the 1.4 TSI 125PS petrol Kodiaq and optional on the 1.4 TSI 150PS or 2.0 TDI 150PS derivatives. Most will want 4WD though and you have to have it on top petrol and diesel units that must also be coupled with the auto transmission.

The interior includes a 6.5-inch infotainment screen

In profile – the Skoda Kodiaq is a handsome option

The wide, three-dimensional radiator grille is striking and the narrow, raked headlights look distinctive in appearance

The Kodiaq's styling conforms to the way you'd expect a big Skoda SUV to look, with a clear, precise and clean-cut shape marked out by a distinctive, highly recessed shoulder line. The wide, three-dimensional radiator grille is quite striking and the narrow, raked headlights look distinctive in appearance. TheKodiaq is one of the biggest VW Group models to be spun off the conglomerate's MQB platform.

It's around 4.7m in length and the long wheelbase and short overhangs point to a large interior.

That's certainly what you get once you take a seat inside. This is a much bigger SUV than the brand's Yeti, which ample room for heads, legs and knees. The boot's huge too, large enough in fact to accommodate the optional fold-out third seating row that rival Volkswagen Tiguan and SEAT Ateca SUVs can't offer.

If you stick with the five-seat variant, there's a 720-litre cargo area, extendable to 2,065-litres once you fold the rear bench.

If the optional folding passenger seat is chosen, this SUV can transport items up to 2.80m long. An electrically operated tailgate is available, and a Kodiaq fitted with a drivetrain can tow a trailer weighing up to 2.5-tonnes. It's all very practical. Approach purchase of a Kodiaq armed with a budget in the £28,000 to £35,000 bracket and you'll find you've managed your expectations about right. That's about the same kind of money you'd need for obvious family SUV rivals that offer 7-seat options, cars like Kia's Sorento, Hyundai's Santa Fe and Mitsubishi's Outlander.

Equipment levels are quite generous. Even entry-level variants get Skoda's 'Swing' infotainment system with its 6.5-inch screen. It can be supplemented with a smartphone Bluetooth connection and the 'Skoda SmartLink' set-up. 'SmartLink' supports the use of Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and MirrorLink. Plus there's a 'Phonebox' option that charges a smartphone inductively using the Qi standard and connects to the car aerial – both processes occur wirelessly. There's also the opportunity of specifying a 'Skoda Connect' package that gives you various online services, remote access to your car via a downloadable app and a 'Care Connect' system that provides emergency assistance.

As for safety, well a 'Front Assist including City Emergency Brake' system is standard, using a radar to scan the road ahead for potential accident hazards as you drive. Adaptive Cruise Control, a 'Driver Alert' system to combat fatigue and a 'Traffic Jam Assist' system are all optional.

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

New entries to estate and GLC ranges

By James Parker

MERCEDES E-CLASS ESTATE AND GLC COUPE

Three new engines have been added to the E-Class Estate range, which now starts at £36,735 for the E 200 d SE. The E 350 d SE is priced from £47,255, while the Mercedes-AMG E 43 costs £58,290. The existing E 220 d Estate starts from £38,230.

The 200 d features the latest 2.0-litre diesel engine with an output of 150 hp and CO2 emissions of just 109 g/km. It delivers 65.7 mpg on the combined cycle. The 3.0-litre V6 E 350 d produces 258 hp while delivering up to 48.7 mpg and emitting 140 g/km of CO2.

The Mercedes-AMG E 43 4MATIC Estate features a bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine which generates 401 hp – enabling it to reach 62 mph from standstill in 4.7 seconds. All E-Class engines come as standard with a 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission (with shorter shift times for the E 43).

Standard specification on the E-Class Estate mirrors that in the E-Class Saloon, but with the addition of standard split-folding rear seats.

Comand Online with a 12.3-inch screen comes as standard on the E 350 d, and customers can add to this with the 12.3-inch cockpit display for £495.

For the first time, the E 220 d Saloon is available with 4MATIC four-wheel drive– it's priced from £37,730 (£1,500 over the rear-wheel drive 220 d). It accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in 7.5 seconds, and has rear-biased torque distribution of 45:55.

All E-Class Estate models are now available with an optional folding bench seat in the boot, for £1,250.

The Mercedes-AMG E 43 4MATIC Estate features a bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine

Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupé is now available with a V6 3.0-litre diesel

This provides an extra rear-facing two Artico-covered seats – which are specifically designed for use by children under 115 cm (3 ft 9 in) in height – and is stored under the load compartment floor when not in use.

An Easy-Pack load securing kit can be specified for an additional £295. This provides rails in the load compartment floor with a telescopic bar that means luggage can be safely clamped against the rear seats or side wall.

An AMG carbon fibre package is available on both Mercedes-AMG E 43 bodystyles for £1,575 – it includes exterior mirror casings and an AMG spoiler lip (saloon only) finished in carbon fibre.

The GLC Coupé is now also available with the V6 3.0-litre diesel, producing 258 hp. The GLC 350 d 4MATIC Coupé can sprint from 0 to 62 mph in 6.2 seconds, emits 161 g/km of CO2 and delivers up to 47.1 mpg on the combined cycle. It is available from £47,135. The Mercedes-AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé can now be ordered from £50,960. Its bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine produces 367 hp, making for 0-62 mph in 4.9 seconds and an electronically limited top speed of 155 mph.

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Don't judge car by its cover – look inside

New Mazda 3 starts from £17,595 – looks pretty much the same externally, but what's inside?

By John Griffiths

This is one for real car enthusiasts of the future: what's the difference between the 'old' Mazda version?

The answer – in visual terms – is a little testing because the changes are indeed subtle. But underneath the skin is a very different story. It sounds and feels like a whole new car, as it benefits from some of the latest technology handed down from the flagship Mazda6. The use of new and higher quality materials in the cabin is obvious. But the real story is how the 2017 car feels to drive – quieter, smoother and more refined – as well as being safer.

Prices range from £17,595 to £24,195, meaning a model for model increase of around £200 despite the raft of improvements. There are two petrol engines and two diesels, including the tax-busting 1.5 litre oil burner added to the 3 range last year with its 99g/km CO2 rating.

It's a good-looker in any company, particularly (for me) the coupe styling of the Fastback model, although the hatchback is likely to be the biggest seller. There's no mistaking where 'Son of 3' gets its sleek looks from, The changes are in the detail, with a bolder new grille and badge and revised fog lamp housing, plus a new bumper for hatchback models. The real giveaway is the new door mirrors which now incorporate wrap-around indicator lights.

The overall impression of the cabin is of a major upgrade, thanks to higher quality materials and new trim. The adoption of an electronic handbrake (which automatically releases as you let in the clutch) frees up space for a bigger centre console storage box with sliding cover. What you don't see, but do experience as you drive, is the considerable extra soundproofing in the roof, doors, dashboard and transmission tunnel, as well as new door seals.

Whether petrol or diesel, the new Mazda3 must be one of the quietest cars in its class: indeed its a whispering rival to some more expensive brands. This sound reduction is enhanced on diesel models technology called transient control, which reduces turbo lag (meaning brisker, petrol-like initial acceleration) as well as reducing diesel rattle on start-up or under load.

But one of the biggest changes is Mazda's G-Vectoring – something you'll never hear, feel or see but will be imperceptively be there, working away to make you seem a better, smoother driver.

Put simply, its computer brain monitors throttle and steering inputs and subtly varies torque between the driven wheels, aiding turn-in, traction and stability.

Combined with improvements to the MacPherson strut suspension, this endows the new 3 with a significantly smoother, more comfortable ride in a car which can match many a hot hatchback for its dynamic abilities.

While the instrument display is revised for greater clarity, a new head-up display atop the instrument binnacle is an excellent option. Now in colour, it displays your speed, the local speed limit and includes traffic sign recognition, as well as satnav instructions which are clearly displayed on a transparent perspex3 Hatchback is screen.

The 3 hatchback is a full five seater, with plenty of head and legroom for adults even in the rear. Boot space is 364 litres, rising to 1,263 litres with the rear seats folded flat.

The most economical engine is the 1.5 litre, 105PS turbo diesel, with 270Nm of torque (more than the 2.0 litre petrol stablemate) for quiet, easy cruising on long motorway runs. It's 0 to 62mph time is a class average 11 seconds, but those who go for this option will be attracted by its official 74.3mpg average economy, with a road tax free 99g/km CO2 rating. Perhaps more popular with the business sector will be the 150PS, 2.2 litre diesel with a whopping 380Nm of torque. It's the sprinter of the family yet is still credited with economy of just over 60mpg and a low 104g/km of CO2. The 2.0 litre petrol's vital statistics are 8.9 seconds, 55.4mpg, and 119g/km of CO2.

There are four trim levels to chose from, with impressive levels of equipment. Many of the technological options are safety-based, including the 'smart city brake' system which uses radar sensors to warn, and if necessary, brake the car to prevent a rear end collision.

There's also 'emergency indicators' – hard braking switches on the hazard warning lights for a few flashes, alerting drivers behind that you've just pulled up rather quicker than they might have expected.

The new Mazda3 hasn't changed a lot of the outside – but since it still looks sleek and modern, why would you change it?

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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424491**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424495**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363**

JULIE, 53yrs, tall, slim, dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving, new to the area so WLTM men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424497**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SEXY brunette 39, petite, brown eyes, seeks energetic discreet guy for no strings fun and friendship. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424451**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

HEATHER, 48, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424429**

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 42404**

TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's you pls call, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424377**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA. I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035**

SUSAN, 43, pretty green eyed brunette looking for an interesting attractive man who would understand my wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424381**

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curvy lady. Independent with no ties seeks "normal" chap for mutual pleasure. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 424385**

JOY attractive Asian female 37, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, fall in love with, spoil, pamper and make feel very special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424255**

JANETTE 38 yrs black married lady looking for no strings fun with white man, any age. **Box 4008771**

WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTM gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424339**

VERY attractive intelligent blonde, 59, WLTM tall attractive solvent man. No Tattoos. South Yorks. **Text only Mailbox: 5430085**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424263**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261**

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424337**

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424335**

BABS, single mum looking for adult companionship, any age/looks or status. Interested? Come on over to my place. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424253**

HI I'm Angie, attractive petite mid 50s lady. I'm a very very active lady, with lots of interests. WLTM chap with GSOH, looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424333**

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424331**

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny, 45, attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424225**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 57, widow, likes dining out, country pubs, good conversation and laughter, seeks genuine professional gent, with a gosh with similar interests, to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424157**

JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424231**

HI I'm Pam, 42, slim, blonde, green eyes, discreet, loves cuddles, seeking similar discreet tactile male for mutual friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424101**

LOUISE, 39, tactile good-looking solvent female WLTM spontaneous male for holidays, spoiling and lots of fun times. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424055**

NAOMI, 43, attractive fun loving female with lots of love to offer a genuine caring guy. Come on, lets share all the good things life has to offer together! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424085**

CLARA, 32yr Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424021**

FEMALE 50, seeks male of similar age for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350529**

AMY 31yr old single mum, new to the area, looking to meet male companion to help make me settle in and feel special again, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424051**

TALL, slim and curvy woman, 57,,attractive with GSOH and varied interests, seeks similar man 50-65 Bristol area, for discreet assignations. **Text only Mailbox: 5546538**

DIANE, loving and caring, young 72 year old, blond hair, brown eyes, smoker, looking for genuine male with gosh, for friendship. Walsall area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424025**

ELLA, 46, slim confident brunette, tired of spending lonely nights alone, seeking honest, romantic male to enjoy nights out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424015**

JANE, attractive blonde lady, genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals out, looking to meet nice looking professional single man. **Text only Mailbox: 5535192**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423903**

Single Men

TALL, 63-year-old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

RETIRED male seeking companionship maybe more. No time wasters. **Text only Mailbox: 5542315**

ITALIAN male, 46, from Oldbury, seeking female, 30-50, for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424371**

TIM, young at heart, intelligent, fun loving, spontaneous, GSOH, WLTM a lady with a GSOH, for friendship and possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424395**

ATTRACTIVE, Tall and intelligent Black male 50, lover of animals and nature seeks solvent lady of quality 50+ for romance. **Text only Mailbox: 5561456**

47 year old guy, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, likes DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 42-49, in Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for friendship and long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424325**

ANDY, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422893**

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424321**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

STEVE, 53yr old male, laid back, likes most things in life, seeks female 40-50, for evenings out, need some TLC in my life. **Text only Mailbox: 4362854**

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789**

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

WHITE curvy lady any age, required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. **Text only Mailbox: 5066605**

ROB, 63, 6ft, slim, own hair own teeth, young at heart, considered good looking, OHAC, solvent, so get back if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027**

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTM a lady, 55-65 for a permanent relationship, so please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131**

TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky build, looking to meet a lady any age/looks/race to have fun times with, so please get in touch if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424067**

MALE looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

64 year old male, living in Northampton, WLTM a lady between 60-75, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

MALE 40s, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

SEAN mixed race 44, seeks female, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392363**

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177**

MALE 43 slim, non-smoker, open minded, looking for naughty liaisons with a naughty minded lady for naughty fun only. **Text only Mailbox: 5543476**

40YR old easy going guy, athletic and loves life is looking for some fun with a like-minded girl. **Text only Mailbox: 5545609**

MARK 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391454**

47 year old guy, lots of interests, seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997**

GEORGE 48, seeking mature female 50 to 80 for no strings adult fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5525079**

PROFESSIONAL male, been hurt before, looking for female, 30-42, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423991**

MALE, young looking 70, 5ft8, decent looking, down to earth, likes horses, driving, holidays, good company, looking for female partner to share nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423909**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

ATTRACTIVE open-minded male 57, seeks open-minded female any age or status to share adult times. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

YOUNG 66-year-old attractive male would love to meet lovely lady for friendship, to enjoy meals out etc. **Text only Mailbox: 5536750**

MALE, attractive, tall, medium build and intelligent would like to meet genuine mature caring lady who wishes for a sincere relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5537519**

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SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

domestic cleaning

CLEAN (midlands ltd) FOR YOU
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY FENCING/GATES LTD. Supply/fit. WV10 9QQ. Call 07816 863810.

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/Fit. Free Quotes: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU.01902 723910

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184066.

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Prestwood Cave Nurseries, Wolverhampton Rd, Prestwood DY7 5AN
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers
- Cookers
- Fires
- Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664
/07969 687832

guttering

GUTTER KING
- All Gutters/Downpipes Cleared Using Gutter Vacs.
- No Need For Ladders.
- High Access No Issue.
- Gutters/Downpipes Repaired
- Gutters Cleaned Above Conservatories.

All areas covered. Free quotes
10% DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD
Direct line
07447 065577

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

LOCK AND CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, slabbing and roofing 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

YMCA REQUIRE FURNITURE Free Collection, Telephone 01384 231714 for details.

kitchen fitters

LEGENDARY PROPERTY SERVICES
Electrics, Plumbing, Plastering, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Tiling, Carpentry
07857 459873
legendarypropertyservices.co.uk

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING, Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

OVENBLITZ MIDLANDS Affordable oven cleaning specialists. See website or call 0800 773 4870.

painters / decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience,City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07890 879 892 01902 650716.

INTERIOR PAINTER AND DECORATOR Friendly and reliable, clean and tidy.Call Deb 01384 829473 / 07502 396385

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

plumbing & heating

CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in November. T&C apply
01902 845211

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
CENTRA HEAT

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us.
Martin - Centra Heat
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

DOMESTIC PLASTERING
rendering & small building work undertaken. 40 years experience. For a free quote
Call Roy
07887 495726
07583 643932

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

roofing

Arrow Roofing & Guttering
Pitched roofing & lead work. Flat roofing, rubber & felt. All repointing.
Free quotes. 01902 820996

PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
A*1 GUTTERING
cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/ soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/ repointing work. Free quotes, 8am-8pm
01902 722447

S&F ROOFING & GUTTERING
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL Single Items/Full loads from £20. OAP discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 618231.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste. We also do Whole House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
Also available mini digger with driver
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!
It definitely works for us!
Grinsells Skip Hire.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd. Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

tree services

S T TREE SERVICES All tree work carried out Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

upholstery

BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your suite or chair re-upholstered or repaired. Free Estimates: 01902 404698.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KITTEN black and white female, £25 to good home. 01902 218944.

KITTENS X 2. Female, tortoiseshell, eight weeks, litter trained, £30 each. 07734 208600.

YOUNG BORDER COLLIES
We have in our care 5 Border Collies, aged 15 months,
2 girls, 3 boys. They are small, short haired and tri colour.
They're very sweet natured dogs and good with other dogs and cats.
Also Buster
9 month old blue merle Border Colly, friendly boy whose good with other dogs and cats.
For more information telephone
01588 676106.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

vets

Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS
Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.
So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.
NO AGENTS FEES · COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
FREE SOLICITORS · ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
30 yrs
0800 999 999 6
or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

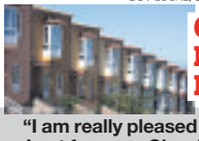
Any Property Wanted
PROUDLY REGULATED BY:
100% Price Promise
GENUINE CASH BUYERS
ANY CONDITION
FAST RELIABLE SERVICE
NO COSTS TO YOU
COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
A BLACK COUNTRY COMPANY RUN BY WOMEN!
0800 634 7059 24/7
or 0121 487 0300
www.anypropertywanted.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
IT WORKS FOR ME
We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.
Black Country Homes
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.
Black Country Homes
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
01384 930 979
*Terms and Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

accommodation to let

A 1/2 BEDROOM FLAT to let Chapel Ash, Finchfield, Wednesfield. ORP. DSS ok. 01902 686605.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

HIGH QUALITY Furnished 1 bed flat,Tettenhall area. No DSS 07976263435 / 01902 700 028.

HIGH QUALITY Self contained studio flat, suit mature single person, most bills paid, DSS considered. 07715 603357.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

7 Jobs

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER requires employment, all types of brickwork, private and commercial. 07534 767256.

GENT 56 worked in national sales, seeks part time driving or similar. 07921 513088.

hotel & catering

EXPERIENCED CHEF
We currently have an exciting and challenging position for a Chef to join our professional kitchen team on a permanent basis. Our restaurant produces hearty freshly prepared food and is based in the beautiful countryside setting at **Ashwood Nurseries Kingswinford**
Salary based on experience/social hours.
Own transport due to location of area.
Contact **Ruth Cartwright or Neil Taylor on 01384 275956** or email CV to:**tearoom@ashwoodnurseries.com**

motor trade

MANUAL/COMMERCIAL GEARBOX BUILDER (Salary depending on experience) Must be experienced in all areas of refurbishing. Varied variety of gearboxes to build to high standard. Based in Birmingham. Please send your CV to trudy@powertransmissions.uk.com or Tel: 0121 773 9931

full time - general

Steelco UK Ltd are one of the UK's leading Steel Stockholders and Processors and we are Looking to expand our sales team with the introduction of one or maybe two

INSIDE SALES PERSONNEL

Responsibilities
- Source new sales opportunities through inbound lead follow-up and outbound cold calls and emails
- Maintaining and developing relationships with existing clients to gain repeat business
- Order raising and processing
- Reactivating dormant accounts

Requirements
- Proven inside sales experience
- Strong phone presence and experience dialling dozens of calls per day
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Successful experience of cold calling
- Display strong customer focus and a commitment to delivering excellent customer service
- Be resourceful, proactive and enthusiastic
- Have strong attention to detail and a high degree of accuracy

Hours: Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 5.00pm Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm
Job Type - Full Time
Job Location - Dudley DY2

Required Education - Secondary Education

The successful candidate would essentially have previous Telephone Sales experience and although preferred does not have to be within the steel industry.

Please send CV to Steelco UK Ltd, Narrowboat Way, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 0XQ
or email details to: paul.tranter@steelcouk.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Sunrise Medical is a world leader in the development, design, manufacture and distribution of manual and powered wheelchairs, mobility scooters and both standard and customised seating and positioning systems.

We are currently seeking a
SALES ORDER PROCESSING ADMINISTRATOR
to join our busy Customer Service team.

The candidate will be responsible for processing highly complex prescription orders and will provide account management support to potential, existing and new customers. Two years' experience in an administrative/order processing role is essential. This is a full time permanent position.
Job specification, salary and package available upon application.

Please send your full CV to:
Gemma Stackhouse Human Resources Department, Thorns Road, Brierley Hill West Midlands, DY5 2LD Gemma.Stackhouse@sunmed.co.uk.

MORE CATEGORIES MORE CLASSIFICATIONS MORE CHOICE
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

CHEAPER THAN EBAY
SELL YOUR CAR FOR ONLY £9.99 SOLD
Express & Star
01902 317878
(price comparison as at October 12, 2016)
Private advertisers only

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BARGAIN
FIAT PUNTO 1.2
05 reg, low milesgae.
CD player, alloys, MoT.
Electric windows.
Good condition.
£595.
Telephone 07754 557861.

FORD KA
Very good condition, 2004, 55,600 miles, silver, air bag, long MoT, 2 new front tyres and new front break discs! Serviced regularly. Lady owner.
£550.
01902 894937.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC
2006, 98,000 miles, black, 1.4, 3 door, electric windows, air bags, radio/CD player, MoT until March 27, 2017, private sale, Cat C repaired.
£1,095 ono.
07850 525063.

FORD MONDEO TDCI 2002, 119,000 Miles, silver, abs, alarm, MoT, central locking, diesel, CD, towbar, lost logbook, £400, 07768 261696

BARGAIN
JAGUAR X-TYPE
2.0 V6 SE
Petrol, manual, 2003, dark blue colour, pale leather, two owners, 74,000 miles, new MoT, emissions perfect lovely,
£950.
SOLD

PEUGEOT 407
2007, 102,000 miles, light blue, ABS, electric windows,alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel,, good condition, 50mpg, cambelt recently changed.
£995 ono
0121 557 2706

BARGAIN
TOYOTA AVENSIS T3-S 1794 CC
2005 reg.
Silver. Hatchback.
93,00 miles.
MoT May 2017.
Radio/tape/disc/player.
Navigator.
£1,195 ono.
07424 633816.

TOYOTA CELICA VVTi
185g / km, 102,067 miles, petrol, 3 months MoT,
Nice condition, red colour.
£750
07896 919610.

4X4
TOYOTA RAV 4
2000 plate, very low mileage, long MoT, top of the range, immaculate condition, 2 keys.
£750 ono.
01902 756922 or 07870 959324.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Design, 53 plate, lady owner, FSH, MoT, £500. 07599 220780.

BARGAIN
VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3, CDTi,
Diesel, 2005, 3dr, silver, 116,000 miles, power steering, central locking, electric windows, CD player, history, long mot, bargain
£1095.
07424 525196.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY
VAUXHALL VECTRA
02 plate. Petrol.
1.8. Silver.
Immaculate condition.
FSH. All new parts.
Mot February 23, 2017.
£550 ono.
01902 780189.

MUST BE SEEN
VAUXHALL ASTRA ARCTIC
R Reg., 1998, red, 1600cc, 12 months MoT, no advisories, 43,000 genuine miles, alloy wheels, brand new JVC CD/radio with i-phone adapator, drives superb, interior immaculate.
£550 o.n.o.
07865 290473.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

cars over £1500

AUDI A1
1.6TDi, SE SPORTSBACK
5-dr, FSH, MoT June, 2 remote control keys, 15,630 miles, mechanically warranted, usual standard features, free tax.
£9,750 ono.
07916 252817.

BMW 118D M SPORT
2010, 51,150 miles, silver, full BMW service history, just had service including safety inspection at Knights BMW Stafford. New rear pads. Half leather.
£8,125.
07740 198765.

LOOK
CITROEN C3 COOL 1.4
57 Reg., silver, fsh.
MoT to September 2017.
33,000 miles.
5Dr hatchback.
CD, AC.
Excellent condition.
£2,650.
07715 958800.

MERCEDES CLK 200 CONVERTIBLE
2001, 85,000 miles, long MoT, full leather, all usual Mercedes refinements, excellent condition,
£2,750 ovno.
07984 606575.

MERCEDES SMART CAR
Passion convertible, 2007, 28,000 miles, 60 mpg. M.o.t May 17, service history. Full documents, 2 keys, semi Auto, private plate value £250.
Good reason for sale.
£1,950 ono. .
07768 642821/01902 790879.

DIESEL
PEUGEOT 207 1.6HDi
58 reg, met grey, full MoT, 115,000 miles, 10 Service stamps, £30 tax, well looked after
£2,195.
07796 761902.

PEUGEOT 207, 56 reg, 1360cc, lady owner, red, with red/black interior, full MoT, 42,000 miles, good condition, £1,950. Offers. 07973 483797.

RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION DIESEL
2008, 92,000 miles, fsh, £30 tax, ABS, fsh, long MoT, central locking, PAS, diesel, alloys, 3dr.
£1,599.
07879 403302.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY
SMART FOR TWO PULSE CAR
52 reg, yellow and silver, 58,990 miles, semi automatic, tax £30 pa, MoT September 2017, excellent condition, Immaculate,
£1,700 ono.
07880 255895 or 0121 6020291.

RARE CAR
TOYOTA COROLLA T SPORT
02 plate. 1.8. 190bhp.
12 months MoT.
Good condition for year.
Genuine callers.
£1,650 ono.
07703 548050 / 07773 354042.

classic cars

CLASSIC CAR
JAGUAR XJ12 COUPE
The car has been stored for many years, good body, requires paint and mechanical overhaul, no MoT,
£5,450.
0121 3537220 or 07980 003884.

CLASSIC CAR
JAGUAR XJ6 COUPE
Good solid car, black, much recent expenditure, excellent mechanically, new MoT,
£6,950.
0121 3537220 or 07980 003884.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

TRANSIT 2.0 white, Nov 03, MoT Nov 16, very good runner, £1,195 ono. 07805 667478/01902 898072.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM
5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk

Homer's
10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40. 10 lessons £80. £18 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

FOUR WHEELER BOX Trailer, ideal carboot etc. £600. 07710 555932.

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or 07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

spares/parts

ROOF BOXES & BAR package deals from £149.95. Cheapest in Midlands. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tettenhall Rd, WV6 0LE.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

CAROL LYNNE GREY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 15 Hillcroft Road Kingswinford DY6 7EE, who died on 24/08/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 23/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
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The Wolves 1907/08 home shirt that features in the book

Wolves' Championship 2002-03 play-off final shirt

Author Steve Plant, aged 55, from Stourbridge, with his Wolves book They Wore The Shirt

Skipper Danny Batth models the 1980 League Cup winning shirt

Old gold memories as Wolves tops charted

FEW football shirts are as iconic as the old gold and black of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

First donned in 1889, the colours have graced the backs of Wolves greats through the good times and bad. Now the history of the shirt has been put in print by die-hard fan Steve Plant and the book was launched in style with a host of past and present players, club staff and hundreds of fans.

They Wore The Shirt, a 255-page coffee-table book, is the product of the author's vast personal collection and his commitment to documenting the history of the club through the shirt.

Only 1,877 copies have been produced – a nod to the year Wolves were formed – and it comprises glossy pictures of 113 shirts.

Plant, aged 55, said: "There are many shirts in there that people will never have seen before and perhaps didn't even know existed. It is the entire history of Wolves done from a different angle."

Flannel

It begins by chronicling the club's inception and the team founded in 1877 by a group of pupils at Blakenhall's St Luke's school. Plant writes that knitted or worsted jerseys and later gentlemen's flannel dress shirts typically formed a player's attire at that time.

Most notably the shirt worn by the early St Luke's side featured blue and white hoops. By 1883 the club had switched to red and white vertical stripes – the reason still remains a mystery.

In 1889 gold and black was adopted for the first time to match the colours of Wolverhampton's coat of arms created a year earlier. The motto on the coat of arms read Out Of Darkness, Cometh Light – with black used to symbolise the dark and gold representing the light. After a brief return to red and white in 1890, a new Football League order requiring teams to register official colours forced Wolves back into gold and black stripes to avoid a clash with Sunderland.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Rob Cox

"It reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."

The earliest shirt pictured is the 1907-08 home jersey. It is believed to be the oldest Wolves jersey in existence. It came to Plant via a dusty attic in Canada.

There is a suggestion that it may have belonged to John Brodie, who played a key part in the formation of Wolverhampton Wanderers, with his family believed to have emigrated to Canada.

Other notable entries include the shirts worn by Wolves greats in the hugely successful 1950s.

Among them are the floodlight friendly fluorescent gold shirts made famous by a series of challenge matches against top Continental club sides.

Amon the pictures are the very shirt worn by Honved hero Roy Swinbourne who provided the catalyst for the famous victory over the Hungarian side in 1954, shirts from Wolves FA Cup victories and an England shirt worn by Billy Wright against Germany.

A selection of popular Umbro shirts follow from between 1970 and 1986 including the 1977-79 home jersey, voted the club's most popular of all time in a Twitter poll conducted by Plant. The book then enters 'The Bully Years' with the iconic sponsors including Staw Distribution, Mander Paint & Ink and Goodyear.

Its final section charts the Millennium Years including the 2002-03 play-off final shirt worn by goalscorer Nathan Blake.

Plant started collecting Wolves shirts to show his father John after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given just months to live by doctors.

He said: "I would take each shirt round to show him as I got it and you could see it would put a sparkle in his eye. That was when I started buying anything and everything Wolves related."

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Birmingham Children's Cancer Unit with the hope of raising £20,000.

Favourites

Among those attending the launch at the WV1 Bar in the Stan Cullis Stand were current skipper Danny Batth, team-mates Nouha Dicko and Richard Stearman and old favourites Steve Bull, John Richards, Kenny Hibbitt, Phil Parkes, Willie Carr, Steve Daley and Colin Brazier. TV presenter Jacqui Oatley and former players George Elokobi and Matt Jarvis sent messages via a special video.

Plant said: "The Wolves shirt is the fabric of the club and it reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."

Current players modelled the shirts for the book including Batth who said: "It's the story behind the strips that everyone's interested in and it's nice to be part of and to be able to show my support."

Record goalscorer Steve Bull said: "It's unbelievable. I didn't know what half of those shirts were like."

Hibbitt added: "Looking at some of the photographs in there brings a tear to your eye when you see all the boys."

For a copy, see www.theyworetheshirt.co.uk

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Sport

Book of old shirts brings back golden memories

Page 55

New chance for boxer to impress

BOXING under the Matchroom banner with the Sky Sports cameras rolling will come with a sense of deja vu for Halesowen's Lennox Clarke.

The big-time again comes calling for the heavy-handed super middleweight prospect on Saturday.

Clarke has featured for Matchroom once before and at the same venue, the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, back in May 2015.

The 25-year-old laboured to a routine four-round points victory over Alistair Warren on that occasion with a performance he feels didn't do him justice.

Then the match was made for him to return to the same arena for a shot at the Midlands middleweight title, against champion Craig Cunningham. But Clarke pulled out citing illness with Cunningham instead outpointing Adam Jones in a six-rounder. That sort of opportunity hasn't knocked since.

Clarke returned to small hall shows and has picked up four more victories, three by TKO. Two were first round stoppages, the other halted in the second. He now has 13 wins from 13.

Manager Errol Johnson has got him another chance to compete on the big stage, with Matchroom promoter Eddie Hearn again the man to impress. It will come just over a year to the day that he and Cunningham were set to battle for the belt, with this test ironically against Jones.

Clarke said: "I probably won't be live on Sky, because there's so much on the show. I'm not too bothered about that, as long as all of the right people are there. I'm looking to make a statement.

"I've been here before, I consider it the poorest boxing performance of my career against Warren but I still beat him easy, on my worst day. I'm determined to put that right, showing how good I can be."

No miracle to save Heathen ambitions in KO Cup return

CRADLEY saw their season come to a disappointing conclusion with a 62-27 defeat at Eastbourne in their Knockout Cup semi-final second leg.

The Motor Market Heathens travelled to Arlington in need of a miracle to reach the Grand Final after going down 47-43 in the first leg at Monmore Green. No miracle was forthcoming. They were well beaten in wet conditions, suffering a heavy 108-71 aggregate loss.

It was a tough evening for Will Pottinger's side, who never recovered after conceding three 5-1s in the opening three races.

Skipper Max Clegg put in a fine display, reeling off four straight wins in his final four rides including victories over Adam Ellis in heats 13 and 15. But he received little support as the Heathens ran 13 last places – and he admitted they were simply beaten by a better team.

"It was a good night for myself, but it's a bit frustrating for the team to lose so heavily," Clegg said. "We knew it was going to be tough but I don't think we expected it to be that tough. Eastbourne were just a much better team than us."

Lee legend inspires champion Jason

Jason Leung from Stourbridge with his gold medal

A MARTIAL arts champion who was inspired by Bruce Lee has seen off the competition to win his fifth British title.

Unstoppable Jason Leung, from Stourbridge, has become a master of martial arts and secured yet another gold medal at the tournament in Birmingham.

Jason, aged 26, competes in martial arts which takes in a range of different styles including taekwondo, karate, kickboxing and kung fu.

He decided to take up the sport after being wowed by Bruce Lee when watching his movies. The icon starred in films including Enter the Dragon before his death in 1973 aged just 32.

Martial Arts

Lee inspired a generation with his incredible martial arts skills, including Jason, who said: "I was astonished by Bruce Lee and it made me want to start doing martial arts. I have been doing it for about 10 years now. I really enjoy it and love the health and fitness side of things."

Jason trains twice a week at Ellowes Hall Sports College in Lower Gornal. His latest achievement, winning his fifth World Association of Kickboxing Organisations (WAKO) British title, follows national titles.

GLASSBOYS GO PROPER IN CUP

Nantwich Town 1 Stourbridge 3

STOURBRIDGE manager Gary Hackett was full of praise for his team after they powered their way into the FA Cup first round proper.

In front of 755 spectators at the impressive Weaver Stadium, the Glassboys produced a superb performance against their Northern Premier League rivals.

Stourbridge's reward for reaching the first round is a trip to National League South Whitehawk, one of the giantkillers of last season's FA Cup.

The south coast club reached the second round of the competition after beating Lincoln City, before losing 3-2 at home to Dagenham & Redbridge in a replay.

On Saturday a Leon Broadhurst brace and a strike from Luke Benbow overcame the Glassboys' South Cheshire hosts, who lost skipper Sam Hall sent off for a second yellow card just before the break.

But Stourbridge also suffered a blow when substitute Justin Richards was stretchered off deep into stoppage-time with a suspected dislocated knee.

Massive

"I thought that without doubt we were the better side and fully deserved the win," said Hackett. "It was a massive game for both teams but from the very first minute we were on top of our game from numbers one to 11.

"Leon Broadhurst fully deserved his goals but I thought that Chris Lait had his best game for us by far. The only minus was the injury to Justin which led to a restrained dressing room."

It took just eight minutes for Broadhurst to rise at the far post and head home Lait's cross for the opening goal. Benbow saw his 35-yard free-kick fly just wide before the striker was on hand to blast a loose ball past 'keeper Dave Parton for his side's second on 33 minutes. Rampant Stour then made it 3-0 three minutes later when Broadhurst volleyed home Lait's corner.

Glassboys stopper Matt Gould did well to parry a stinging drive from striker Sean Cooke but could do little to stop Josh Hancock's 39th-minute penalty, awarded for a foul on Cooke.

Leon Broadhurst celebrates his first goal during in FA Cup fourth qualifying round match at Nantwich

Runners test themselves on the continent

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club travelled into Europe looking for competition.

A group flew to the Netherlands to take part in the Amsterdam Marathon. Dave Norman came into the Olympic stadium at 1017th in a time of 3.10.56. Mark Homer was 1239th in 3.14.49 to record his second fastest time over the distance. Mark Judge finished in 3.22.13 in 1667th place and Samantha Hemming overcame illness to finish in 5.19.24 to take 11692nd position. Over the half marathon distance Andy Weaver recorded a time of 1.54.06 in at 4583th.

Some line up in the Balearics for the Palma de Mallorca Marathon with Dave Hickman finishing in 4.06.25 to take 487th place. In the half marathon Kathryn Sneyd finished in 1.59.33.

Closer to home in the Great Birmingham Run over the half marathon distance, Kevin Duckworth was first back for the club in 137th in 1.24.32, Stuart Perkins was 176th in 1.26.05.

DK cup game fightback is just too late

DK 15 Newport 31

DUDLEY Kingswinford knew they faced a challenge going into this North Midlands Cup match with Newport coming into the game having played six won six in the league, securing them top spot.

The opening 11 minutes saw the Shropshire side score two tries through their backs and race to a 12-0 lead with the DK defence constantly under pressure. Newport full-back Liam Holder was prominent and bagged the second try.

DK tightened up defence and grew in confidence. Then Danny Hawkins received a yellow card and during the 10 minute sin bin period Newport scored three tries to increase their lead to 31-0.

With DK restored to 15 men and 20 minutes left on the clock the home side stormed back into the game. Matt Squires burst through the Newport defensive line before being halted just short of the line, but was able to offload to Rob Chivers, who dived in for a well-deserved five pointer. No conversion, 31-5.

Ten minutes later a penalty kick set up a driving maul and the last man with the ball was Joe Tighe. Once again only the five points, so 31-10.

The scoring was completed by a try from the highly impressive Liam Marshall, who was DK's best back through the game by contributing some elusive runs through the heart of the Newport defence.

This time it was very much the winger's try. It started from a line out on the Newport 22, a clean win at the line out into midfield saw Arran Hudson drive in strongly and the ball was in Mitch Grealey's hands, having a two-on-one 10 metres out, he passed for Liam to finished it off and increase the consolation.

Late strike secures victory for the Yeltz

Grantham 2 Halesowen Town 3

JAMES Hancocks' goal deep into stoppage time lifted Halesowen above Grantham and local rivals Stourbridge in the Evo-Stik Premier.

Halesowen took the lead via Malcolm Melvin's free-kick on seven minutes. Grantham replied two minutes later through Luke Shaw. Kaiman Anderson put Hales back in front when he headed home Hancocks' free-kick. The home side equalised on 54 minutes when Asa Charlton fouled Shaw in the box and Felipe Barcelos converted from the spot. But on 94 minutes Hancocks latched onto a free-kick which came off the wall.

★★★

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